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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Should top CNMI officials agree to a voluntary pay cut as a cost-cutting measure?

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to cast your vote.

143 DAYS without a government budget for FY 2009

INSIDE

i Sagua Spa

The i Sagua Spa at Hyatt Regency Saipan has expanded its signature treatments available for local and off-island guests.

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Job Tips

Here are eight technology etiquette tips for job-seekers in this time of recession.

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'NMI moving too slowly for money'

By KRISTI EATON
kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan told members of the Legislature yesterday that the Commonwealth is behind the curve in preparing applications for the federal stimulus grant money.

Other states were preparing for the package, which President Obama signed into law on Tuesday, when it was in the planning stages, Sablan said.

The CNMI could be eligible for at least $96 million of the $787 billion stimulus package, but the Northern Marianas must compete for the money like every other state or territory. Governments across the country have been scrambling to pre-

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BEATING THE HEAT HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two tourists frolic in the Jungle Wave water park of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe yesterday. Tourist arrivals to the CNMI stood at 38,932 in January, a slight 2.13 percent increase from the same month last year, Marianas Visitors Authority data shows.

Mt. Carmel wins state mock congressional hearing match

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School emerged as this year's champion in the state mock congressional hearing competition that saw nearly a hundred students from three high schools on island competing for a shot at the nationals this April in Washington, D.C.

As part of the Public School System's "We The People Program," the competition is designed to simulate actual con-

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Members of the Mount Carmel School team that won the state mock congressional hearing Saturday pose with their teachers and coaches after their victorious performance.

IN FEDERALIZATION LAWSUIT

NMI, US: Don't use past to determine present

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

In the latest documents submitted to the U.S. District Court in the federalization lawsuit, lawyers for the CNMI government and the federal government agree on one thing: the court should not use a past precedent as a tool to determine the current case, which seeks to halt the implementation of federal immigration laws to the Commonwealth.

Although both the CNMI and U.S. agree that the Deleon Guerrero balancing test should not be used in the federalization lawsuit, they differ on why.

The Deleon Guerrero balancing test stems from a series of cases over whether the Inspec-

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TT govt complex mulled as historic place

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Trust Territory Government Complex on Capital Hill, now home to several CNMI government agencies, is being eyed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places because of its "unique role in the history of the nation" from post-war years up to when the United Nations Trust Territory was dissolved in 1976.

Documentation is also needed on whether or not the complex should be considered a Cold War resource.

Procurement and Supply director Herman S. Sablan and Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Cecilia T. Celes issued a request for proposal for

See TT GOVT on Page 4

Local

Hofschneider-Palacios tandem announces candidacy

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

Economic recovery is the most pressing issue in the Commonwealth at this time, Rep. Heinz Hofschneider said yesterday as he announced his candidacy for governor with House Speaker Arnold Palacios as his running mate.

Hofschneider said the CNMI needs to bring back air carriers and come to a decision on the direction of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., whether it's privatized or as an autonomous agency.

The running mates believe renewable energy needs to be at the forefront of CUC's future, he said.

"We need to resolve this issue immediately," Hofschneider added.

Hofschneider, who ran unsuccessfully for governor four years ago, said the CNMI has squandered its position over the years because of poor policies.

"There is no shortage of wrongs to right," he said, adding that the list grows every day.

Many sacrifices will need to be made to rebuild the Commonwealth's economy, but Hofschneider said he believes that he and Palacios can do that.

Public confidence in the government must be restored, as well as the relationship between the CNMI and the federal government, Hofschneider said to a crowd of nearly 50 family members and friends at his campaign headquarters in Dandan. There has been contention between the two governments for the past decade, he added.

Rep. David Apatang, who was Hofschneider's running mate four years ago when they ran as Independents, was by the candidates' side to offer his support. Apatang decided to leave the political arena because of personal issues, he said.

Palacios said the biggest obstacle to success is having a plan.

"There's no shortage of challenges we face on a daily basis," he said, adding that a platform will be created within two weeks and shared with the public.

The two will be running under the Republican ticket. If a primary does occur and they lose, they will support the other ticket, Hofschneider and Palacios said.

"That's a commitment that's as good as gold," Palacios added.

When asked if he will do anything different this time around during his campaign, the candidate for governor said he will reach out more to his family and friends for support and votes. But other than that there will be no major changes, he added.

Hofschneider narrowly lost to incumbent Gov. Benigno R. Fitial of the Covenant Party in the 2005 general election.

Former governor Juan Babauta and Galvin Deleon Guerrero, principal at Mount Carmel and Board of Education member, announced last month that they were running together under the Republican ticket.

KRISTI EATON
House Speaker Arnold Palacios shakes hands with Rep. Heinz Hofschneider. The two announced yesterday that they would run under the Republican Party for lt. governor and governor.

Businessman and current Retirement Fund board chair Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero is running as an Independent. Fitial said he plans on running for re-election. Former senator and CUC executive director Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero and incumbent congressman and former Lt. Governor Diego Benavente have also announced their plans to run for governor.

House passes bill banning plastic bags

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives has passed a bill that would prohibit the use of plastic bags in stores and impose a fine for any violators.

Under House Bill 16-166, all stores must provide recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags or reusable bags to consumers. Any individual or company found to be in violation would be charged with a misdemeanor and be fined $100 for the first violation. For a second violation within the same year, the fine would be raised to not more than $200. A third violation would increase the fine to not more than $500. The Department of Commerce and the Office of the Attorney General could also impose separate fines.

Rep. Rosemond Santos, who introduced the legislation, said the bill is a stepping-stone for the CNMI to become more eco-friendly. She said although recycling plastic bags is being promoted, it has proven difficult and costly.

Santos shared with the other members how her family uses recyclable bags. She always leaves them in the car until she takes them into the store. Immediately after unloading the grocery items in her house she returns the bags to the car.

"It's a change of lifestyle," she said.

The bill's requirements would go into effect six months after the legislation is signed into law.

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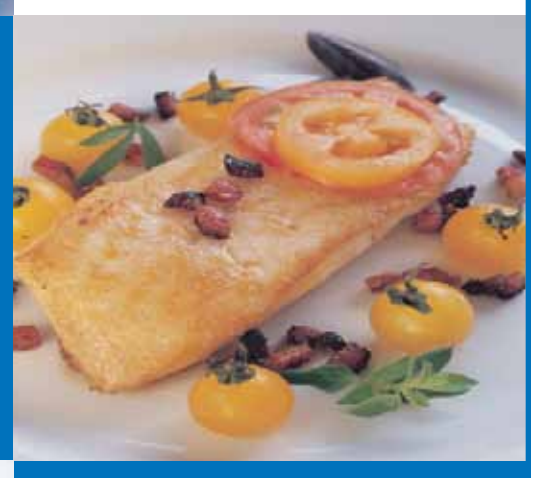

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Airport sees shortfall in debt service ratio

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Despite the implementation of new rates for airport activities, a shortfall is still projected this fiscal year, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain S. Camacho.

During yesterday's special board meeting, Camacho disclosed that the airport's 2009 financial position is projected to realize a shortfall of about 25 percent in its debt service coverage ratio.

"The projected ratio is currently estimated to be 1.00 percent and thus not meeting the 1.25 bond covenant requirement," Camacho reported.

He added that the airport revenues need to be increased or, alternatively, expenses reduced by about $375,000.

Camacho

Camacho said the management is reviewing the operating budget for the remainder of the fiscal year to find where expenses can be lowered.

Compared to the 90 percent hike in seaport activities, CPA had approved a "nominal" rate increase at the airport ranging from 5 to 10 percent, as recommended by its bond consultant, Ricondo & Associates, which was commissioned to do an airport rate study in order to determine the best recovery efforts to prevent a default of its bond indenture agreement.

Coupled with some adjustments such as the termination of the airline incentive program and strict compliance with airport rates, fees and going aggressively on leases, the agency earlier forecast it could recover this year.

CPA, as part of its cost-cutting measures, is enforcing multitasking and cross-training of its personnel to prevent the agency from hiring more personnel.

It also monitors the air-conditioning units and lights in and around the airport to save on energy.

It was earlier disclosed that CPA is billed about $50,000 monthly in utility consumption—an amount Camacho wants to trim down to as low as $25,000.

Meantime, the executive director emphasized that the 2009 financial position for the seaport is projected to meet its debt service coverage ratio of 1.25 due to the tariff rates increase effective this month.

However, he said the management is aware of the volatility of the revenue tons and the continuing downward trend.

"For this reason, it will be necessary to lower expenses where practicable and ensure realized revenues are in compliance with the forecasted estimates," Camacho said.

Although he outlined some positive notes for the Saipan operations—both seaport and airport—he, however, said that Rota and Tinian are in the "red," thus lowering the overall financial position of CPA.

Camacho mentioned that the cut back by Delta/Northwest and Asiana Airlines will certainly have a significant impact on CPA's operations.

He revealed that the number of flights per week will drop from 48 to 34 or from about 10,400 seats to only 5,800.

CPA names new comptroller

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After months of searching for a new comptroller for the Commonwealth Ports Authority, the board approved yesterday the hiring of David Blake, the only certified public accountant among the four applicants that submitted credentials to the agency.

Efrain S. Camacho, CPA executive director, reported yesterday that Blake was given a one-year contract, with an annual compensation of $65,000.

The position, which has been vacant since the resignation of George Palican in 2007, was supposed to be filled by Rufo Mafnas, who later rejected the offer of the agency.

Mafnas, also a CPA, was the committee's choice for the position but he later turned down the offer in favor of private practice.

CPA since then had hired a consultant—Bruce McMillan—to do some financial analysis and assessments on the airport and seaport bond indenture agreements.

The agency was earlier declared under a state of emergency and its management transferred to the Executive Branch due to bond indenture problems.

Although it has already hired a comptroller, Camacho said the agency will retain the service of McMillan, who receives a maximum 40-hour retainer's fee from the agency.

"At present, we're going to keep our contract with McMillan because CPA still needs his service pertaining to our bond indenture issues," Camacho told Saipan Tribune.

McMillan was instrumental in the implementation of new rates for CNMI seaports and the airport, which is still in the initial stages of enforcement.

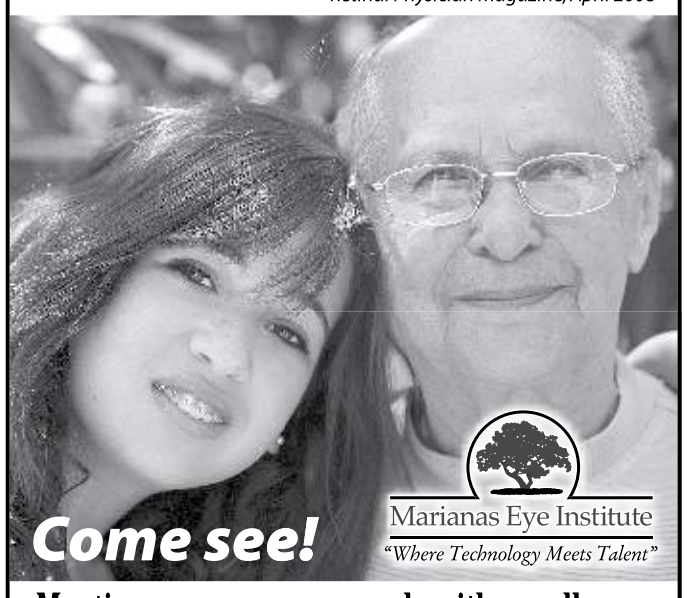
"Every month, we're getting new data from the consultant to see the changes and impact of the new rates both for airport and seaports. Through these data, we will be able to determine if there's a need to consider some changes," he said.

Camacho said CPA intends to keep McMillan but in a less demand capacity.

"With the new comptroller onboard, we're expecting that some works of the financial consultant will be turned over to him, resulting in a lighter duty for the consultant. In the end, we're looking at reducing the 40-hour service work of Mr. McMillan," Camacho said, adding that the consultant's main task is the airport and seaport bond indenture issues.

The CPA board also approved yesterday the inclusion of Blake among the authorized signatories of financial documents and checks for the agency, along with the board chair and executive director of CPA.

"One of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region"
— Retinal Physician Magazine, April 2008



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US Naval Academy nominees meet with Kilili

The six Northern Marianas students who have been nominated for admission to the U.S. Naval Academy met with their congressman yesterday at his District Office on Capital Hill.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan submitted the names of the potential naval midshipmen in January as one of his first acts as a member of Congress. He is currently on-island while Congress is on recess and wanted the chance to meet with the nominees.

The six students are Jessica Babauta, Luis Chung, Amanda Johnson, JD Torres, Victorino Untulan and Jamie Vales.

"Nominating these young people was a great way to begin representing the Northern Marianas," said Sablan. "I am very grateful for the opportunity to send the names of these students to the Naval Academy admissions board; and I am very proud that the Northern Marianas has such outstanding students to nominate.

Members of Congress nominate students to attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the Military Academy at West Point, New York and the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado. The academy admissions boards make the actual selection from those students nominated. Upon graduation the students are commissioned as officers.

But Sablan wasn't satisfied with nominating the students. Another of his first acts representing the Northern Marianas was to introduce legislation to open up more slots at each of the academies for students from the islands. Sablan introduced a bill, H.R. 935, on Feb. 10 that would allow up to three students from the NMI to be in attendance at any academy at any one time.

"Right now we are limited to having one student at each academy, " Sablan explains. "That's why I only nominated students to the Naval Academy this year because we already have a student at West Point and a student in Colorado Springs. ***(PR)***

CNMI Delegate Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan, third from right, meets with Jessica Babauta, Luis Chung, Amanda Johnson, JD Torres, Victorino Untulan and Jamie Vales at his District Office on Capital Hill yesterday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sewage backflow at Tinian clinic

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A sewage backflow caused the Tinian Health Center to temporarily close for non-emergency services on Wednesday.

Henry Ernie U. Hofschneider, resident director of the Tinian Health Center, said the building, which is already 28 years old, now has problems with its own septic system.

The sewage backflow happened late Wednesday morning, which forced the cancellation of meetings and other non-emergency services to patients.

But even early that morning, the smell of sewage was already noticeable within the health center, according to sources. Others initially thought the smell was from reagents or chemicals.

The sewage backflow was fixed a few hours later.

In related news, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Tinian received a call of "low pressure to no water" at the Tinian Health Center yesterday morning.

But according to Edward Quichocho, resident director of CUC Tinian, when utilities personnel visited the health center, "everything was okay on our side."

TT GOVT

From Page 1

the "documentation" of the complex and "preparation of its nomination" to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of historic places in the United States worthy of preservation.

"The Trust Territory Government Complex should be documented and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance because of its unique role in the history of the nation, particularly regarding political, economic and social relations between the United States government and the Western Pacific region," Sablan and Celes said in the RFP.

All proposals must be submitted to the procurement and supply director by March 13.

After World War II ended, former Japanese possessions in the Western Pacific were governed as a United Nations Trust Territory, with headquarters in Palau.

In 1962, the Trust Territory government was moved to Saipan, where it remained until the Trust Territory government was dissolved in 1976.

Residents of the Northern Mariana Islands elected to enter into a commonwealth relationship with the United States.

The RFP said it is important to document the historic resource while it is mostly intact in order to plan for its future management.

"The integrity of several individual buildings is threatened by renovations that are necessary to carry out normal government functions, but may not meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards. The integrity of the complex is threatened by intrusions and landscape modifications," it added.

History of the complex

The Trust Territory Government Complex is located along a 2-km long stretch of road (now Isa Drive) on Capital Hill.

It contains approximately 100 buildings with associated streets, water tanks, utilities and landscaping.

Today, the buildings house various CNMI government agencies, including the Office of the Governor, the Department of Finance and Post Office.

The complex buildings were built sometime after World War II, probably in the late 1950s and early 1960s, according to the RFP.

Approximately 80 of the buildings adhere to a common plan, while others follow a few other standard plans.

A copy of the complex plan is reported to be in the National Archives, and there may be additional copies at other locations.

NMI

From Page 1

tor General of the Department of the Interior has the authority to issue subpoenas to CNMI officials for tax documents relating to the Insular Areas Act. Both the district court and Ninth Circuit found that sections 103 and 105 of the Covenant were "institutional" guarantees of local self-government.

In the latest brief filed in the federalization lawsuit, the CNMI said it is premature to look at the balancing test because the Commonwealth must only establish it has standing to bring the case and that significant harm will be caused by the implementation of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act, which will extend federal immigration laws to the CNMI beginning June 1.

When the court does determine it is the proper time, the test should still not be used because sections 103 and 105 of the Covenant prevents the U.S. from infringing on the CNMI's right to self-government, the CNMI stated. Section 701 commits the U.S. to help the Commonwealth achieve economic security for self-government, and the CNRA will cause a severe, possibly irreversible economic decline, they wrote.

However, lawyers for the United States said the Deleon Guerrero test should not be used because under Section 503 of the Convent the federal government is given expressed consent to extend federal immigration laws to the CNMI.

"The degree of self-government is limited by the Covenant, which provides that the people of the CNMI may determine the 'manner in which they will govern themselves with respect to local affairs;' however, the United States remains 'the sovereign power,' the United States wrote.

But if the test is used, the lawyers for the United States said the balance leans to their side.

"The interests of the United States in applying federal immigration and naturalization law to the CNMI are numerous, and range from securing the border and heightening the safety of U.S. citizens (both within and without the CNMI), stopping human trafficking within the CNMI, protecting foreign workers from abuse, helping the CNMI economy, and improving the employment opportunities for U.S. citizens, among other interests," the United States wrote. "The CNMI's only articulated interest is in securing the ready availability of foreign workers relied on by businesses inside the CNMI, and to secure revenues generated to the CNMI through immigration activities."

In another document submitted to the court, CNMI Acting Attorney General Gregory Baka wrote to United States District Court Judge Paul L. Friedman disputing the U.S.' claim that the Jenner & Block law firm does not have consent to represent the CNMI in the lawsuit.

"This is not true. Jenner & Block is authorized to represent the CNMI," Baka wrote.

The United States has argued that the CNMI's Office of the Attorney General is required by law to represent the Commonwealth in litigation.

A hearing for the case is set for March 12 in Washington D.C.

MT. CARMEL

From Page 1

gressional hearings with a panel of CNMI attorneys and judges serving as judges.

Three schools took up the challenge in the state contest last Saturday: Mt. Carmel, Marianas Baptist Academy, and the Marianas High School. Mt. Carmel students narrowly defeated history classes from MBA and two classes from MHS.

Based on contest rules, the attorneys present a hearing question to a panel of students who will provide testimony on the hearing question followed by questions from the judges. At the end of the competition, the points are tallied and the school with the most points is declared the winner.

This year marked the second year of the competition in the CNMI.

Program coordinator Tim Thornbugh said all school teams practiced in the last four months to prepare for the state level competition.

Thornburgh said the turnout this year was "very favorable." He expressed himself amazed at the skills of the CNMI students and is confident of their chances at the national level.

This year's champion team, which will advance to the national contest, include:

■ Keol Buenpacifico, Hazel Doctor, Kevin Bautista, and Kevin Kim; who successfully presented testimony on unit 1;

■ Ryan Ortizo, So Yoon Karen Lee, Cedie, Chan and Rita Villagomez for unit 2;

■ Louise Villagomez, Daniel Macario and A Ram Yoo for unit 3;

■ Armalene Cabreros, Jalayne Benavente and Alfred Acosta for unit 4;

■ Chiaki Hirosawa, Augustine Chang and Vanessa Sablan for unit 5; and

■ Keno Iwa San Pablo, Lourence Camacho and Jonathan Sanchez, for unit 6.

Mt. Carmel's teacher is Rosiky F. Camacho and their attorney coaches were Judy DLG. Torres, Joaquin DLG. Torres, and Vincent DLG. Torres.

The Mt. Carmel students will be traveling, all-expense paid, to Washington, D.C. in April. The trip will be funded by PSS through federal grants that support student competitions and by the Center for Civic Education, which sponsors the We The People textbook and the national mock congressional hearing.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan was impressed with the higher order thinking skills that the students exhibited when responding to probing questions from the judges. She congratulated the students and their coaches for their excellent performance throughout the competition.

MONEY

From Page 1

pare the applications in order to get a chunk of the billions of dollars.

"The problem is we're not different. We're the same as all of them. We have to apply," Sablan said.

Sablan and other territorial representatives had pushed for language that would allow the Department of the Interior to distribute a pool of $536 million to the territories, but the representatives were unsuccessful.

Environmental Protection Agency projects worth $20 million are the only shovel-ready projects that Sablan said the CNMI currently has ready. In comparison, he said Guam has two projects already prepared that will cost $300 million.

"We, as a government, can only justify $20 million. That's how far we are behind other states and territories."

"It's nobody's fault but ours," he added.

According to recovery.gov, a website set up by the Obama administration to track how the stimulus money is used, federal agencies are to begin reporting their grant awards today. By March 3, federal agencies are to begin reporting how the money is being used.

Sablan said he wishes other departments within the CNMI government would work as efficiently as the Public School System. Much of the money in the stimulus package is reserved for education, and Sablan said that he was pleased with the progress he saw PSS was making during a recent meeting with them.

"I would hope the government would have the same position as PSS and move forward," he said.

PSS officials are handling their bid to receive grant money while Gov. Benigno Fitial has appointed Commerce Secretary Michael Ada to oversee the Executive Branch applications. Ada earlier said he will not fill out each application—each department will do that—but he will prepare a list of all the projects deemed shovel-ready that could be eligible for funding. He earlier said he hopes to have the list ready by today.

Timing is important, Sablan said. The stimulus package money is meant for projects that can be started very soon. Within 18 months there are several projects that could be ready, like renovations for the Northern Marianas College and CNMI health clinics, and fuel facilities for the airport, but 18 months may be too long. Many projects are stalled because required environmental assessments are not completed in a timely manner. The problem is not something new for the CNMI, he added.

"Plans are not a very high priority here," the delegate said.

BOARD OF REGENTS CHAIRMAN TO NMC EMPLOYEES

'Use administrative procedures that are already in place'

In response to recent media reports concerning the college, the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents issued a statement yesterday reminding and encouraging all employees to exercise their rights under the administrative policies and procedures.

"I, along with the rest of the Board of Regents, am very concerned about some of the reports that have recently been released through media outlets and through conversations with other individuals," said board chair Charles V. Cepeda. "We want to remind employees who have any grievance against the president or other managers/supervisors about making use of administrative procedures that are in place specifically for this purpose."

"If these grievances are not adequately addressed by the college administration, they are then conveyed to the Board for disposition," Cepeda said.

Cepeda explained that "employees also have other links to Board of Regents."

"All constituent groups, including students, staff, and faculty, select a representative to the Board of Regents. These representatives include the Faculty Senate President, Staff Senate President, and the President of the Student Government, all of whom are honorary members to the Board," said Cepeda.

He further explained that members of the community can also directly address the board at regular meetings during the public comments segment.

"We do not want to jeopardize the college's accreditation by overstepping our boundaries as board members," said Cepeda. "This was a significant issue in previous findings from past accreditation reports."

"We would like to see the governance processes that are in place run their course," added Cepeda. "These processes have resulted from significant input from students, staff, and faculty and we want to be sure they are fully maximized."

"In the meantime, the board has placed its confidence in NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez's ability to address the ongoing concerns at the administrative level," said Cepeda. "These are challenging times for the NMC President, she has expressed confidence to the BOR that she will take care of the issues and concerns of all involved professionally and expediently." ***(PR)***

PANGELINAN LAMBASTES TAOTANO'S CRUZ:

'Fernandez failed first test as NMC president'

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Maria Frica Pangelinan is taking issue with the leader of the indigenous Taotao Tano CNMI inc. and believes that Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez "failed" her first test as chief executive at the institution.

In an e-mail exchange between Pangelinan and Taotao Tano's Greg Cruz, the senator blasted Cruz for accusing her of having "personal issues" with Fernandez.

"Please let me know what personal issues I have with the president. I am not aware that I have one. I have reasons to judge her in her position, playing political games and sweet talking everyone to be given the freedom to do as she pleases," Pangelinan told Cruz.

The lawmaker disagreed with the idea of keeping someone on the post despite concerns about performance. "So we will keep her in office forever and hope for accreditation? Wake up! Her first test as president failed. What did she tell the public when the report was ready? That everything was complied with and to just now 'pray.' Well, praying did not help the college get its accreditation back. So is she so indispensable for the sake of accreditation? Is she now going to ask the Legislature for more funding to get the right consultant to do her work? And then get the credit?" Pangelinan asked Cruz.

The Taotao Tano leader, after a meeting with Fernandez on Tuesday, e-mailed Pangelinan, citing the importance of the lawmaker's support for NMC's accreditation.

Cruz, in his e-mail, told Pangelinan to support NMC, "otherwise you will ultimately answer to the entire NMC students concerning the [loss] of their hard earned and well-deserved credits."

This raised the hackles of the senator, who responded: "So now they will blame me when accreditation is lost after two years of giving the president all the liberty to resolve the problems and get its accreditation back? Interesting that I am now being threatened. …I am ready to face the students anytime. I can fight my issues all the way…and I don't chicken out because someone sweet talks me."

If NMC does lose its accreditation, Pangelinan said it is "because we allowed Carmen Fernandez to stay on as president and [we] continued to hope even when there is evidence that she failed and we cannot trust what she tells us anymore."

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Fernandez yesterday but was told that she will not respond anymore to the issue.

Criticisms against the NMC president were disclosed following admission of the faculty senate that "dissatisfaction" is running high among college personnel against Fernandez.

Her alleged "management style" and "hiring practices" are some of the factors that have reportedly dismayed some employees and faculty.

NMC hired Fernandez in May 2007. Her two-year contract with the Board of Regents is up for renewal this year.

The institution was placed on continued show-cause status early this month by the Western Associations of Schools and Colleges. It was given until April 1 to submit a supplemental report on two remaining team recommendations that have not been fully "comply with."

In the evaluation report provided by the visiting team, it was indicated that the college "partially" implemented the remaining two concerns and the "show cause extension" was issued to give it time to submit additional proof of its compliance with standards.

Last week, Fernandez responded one-by-one to the criticisms hurled against her. She denied employing any illegal hiring practices and that she made sound judgments in accordance with NMC rules and policies.

The Board of Regents had also come in defense of the president.

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10 percent increase in LPG prices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Households and businesses will soon be paying more for liquefied petroleum gas after Saipan Industrial Gas Inc. announced a 10-percent hike in the price of their LPG effective March 1.

Officials of another LPG supplier on Saipan, Wushin Corp., could not be reached for comment as of press time yesterday on whether they will also raise their prices soon.

Dionisio Lopez, president of Saipan Industrial Gas, told Saipan Tribune yesterday that by next month, a 90-lb. cylinder of LPG, for example, will be $119 compared to the current price of $108.

He said the current price of LPG in the world market has jumped by 33 percent.

"The recent decreases in the price of LPG have given us all a respite from the rising costs of business operations. However, while we were all expecting another decrease, the current price of LPG in the world market has increased 33 percent per notice received from our supplier," Saipan Industrial Gas said in a Feb. 16 notice to customers.

LPG is used mainly for cooking and to run water heaters and laundry machines and dryers.

Saipan Industrial Gas said worldwide consumption of gasoline and diesel plummeted because of the global economic recession. There is also a tremendous drop in crude oil refining, resulting in a very big drop in LPG production.

"LPG consumption has dropped very little so that demand is much [higher] than the supply. Prices will go up. In this connection, please be advised that effective March 1, 2009, we are increasing your price by 10 percent," the company said in its notice.

Saipan Industrial Gas said they can be reached at 322-5105 or 322-6352 for questions.

In January, Saipan customers saw a drop in the prices of LPG. Wushin Corp., for example, slashed its prices by $0.23 per gallon of LPG for both bulk and wholesale customers, after another price slash in November.

3 juveniles arrested for burglarizing CK house

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police officers' quick response to a burglary report yesterday morning led to the arrest of three male juveniles and the recovery of the stolen items from the suspects' hideout in Chalan Kanoa.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the suspects were a 17-year-old Palauan, a 12-year-old Chamorro, and a 12-year-old Carolinian.

The items recovered included canned goods, a ukulele, a hat, flashlight, and rice.

Police officers immediately responded to Chalan Kanoa District III after DPS received a report at 9:15am that a burglary and theft was in progress.

Preliminary police investigation showed that the male juveniles burglarized a residence of a Filipino couple and stole several items.

Ogumoro said police learned that the suspects entered the house through the bathroom window and back door.

According to one of the victims, he left the house for just five minutes and when he returned, he discovered the burglary in progress.

The victim immediately called the police.

Police officers searched the vicinity of the house and eventually located two boys hiding in an abandoned building near Shany II Laundry.

When police got into the building, one of the suspects ran away, but an officer caught him during the chase.

Ogumoro said the two arrested suspects confessed to the crime after being questioned.

Ogumoro said one suspect brought the police officers to their hideout, resulting in the arrest of the third suspect and the recovery of some of the stolen items.

Burglary and theft cases perpetrated mostly by juveniles have been reportedly on the rise in Chalan Kanoa the past three years.

3 rescued from a sunken boat

Authorities and a group of civilians rescued three persons from a sunken 16-foot sailboat outside the reef near Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that the victims—69-year-old Lino Olopai and a certain Michael and Miss Shoyu—were not injured.

Ogumoro said Boating Safety officers discovered that the boat owner, Olopai, violated CNMI Boating Safety laws as he did not have any personal floatation devices aboard.

Ogumoro said that, on Tuesday at 11:09am, DPS received a call of a capsized boat located outside the reef near Sugar Dock.

DPS Boating Safety Section officers and Commonwealth Ports Police officers launched the Ports Police rescue boat for the rescue.

When the officers arrived at the scene, they observed that the sailboat was partially in the water just outside the reef. The officers also saw two boats already next to the sailboat.

One of the two boats, operated by Judd Palacios, handed over the female, identified as a certain Shoyu, a Chinese, whom Palacios had rescued from the sunken vessel.

Two other male passengers—Olopai and Michael—remained with the partially sunken boat.

When the officers arrived at the scene, another boat operated by Hozumi Miyayauchi and Joseph D. Aldan, was already preparing to tow the distressed vessel back to shore.

Miyayauchi's boat towed the vessel to shore while officers escorted the two other boats.

Olopai and Shoyu were also brought back to the beach area. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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The following Non-resident worker and Employer is hereby notified to report to the Department of Labor, Enforcement Section, 2nd Floor, Afetnas Building, San Antonio, Saipan. This notice will serve as a "Proof of Service for the the notice to appear for investigation". For information , please contact Investigator Jeffrey T. Camacho at 236-0900.

Employee	Employer	Case Number	Date/Time
Valerie Joy Mapalo	Lillian D. Camacho	CAC#09-060-02	3/06/09 @ 9 AM

Failure to appear at your scheduled investigation shall be grounds for default and may result in the referral of affected worker to the Division of Immigration for their action and sanction against the employer.

Date this 19th day of February, 2009.

/s/ Jeffrey T. Camacho

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

28 firms, agencies join MHS career fair

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Marianas High School cooperative teacher Tyce Mister poses with MHS students at the Public School System's Career Fair yesterday at World Resort Saipan.

Major businesses and government agencies showed their support for the oldest and largest high school on island during the annual Marianas High School Career Fair, held at the Saipan World Resort yesterday.

A total of 28 participating groups exhibited their commitment to provide continuous assistance to high school students who may want to pursue various careers and professions after their post-secondary education.

Program coordinator Tyce Mister was elated at the turnout. "The commitment demonstrated to our youth today is inspiring," he said.

Approximately 90 high school students from three public schools were provided technical know-how and understanding of various job concepts.

MHS' cooperative program is designed to help prepare students for the job market.

Mister said a majority of yesterday's participants were from his co-op class at MHS while some were from Kagman and Saipan Southern high schools.

As early as 1pm yesterday, companies were seen setting up their stations for the arrival of their "clients."

Company personnel and representatives conducted interviews and assessments on the students.

Mister said there are two major expectations from the fair: internships or actual jobs for students.

Marianas High School 12th grader Hiram Aldan described yesterday's experience as fun and worthwhile because he was able to understand the different nature of jobs available in the community.

Citing his interest in a job at the Office of Adult Probation, Aldan believes that many students learned about every citizen's rights. "They helped me understand the kind of work they're doing…and it really got my interest," Aldan said.

Leo Galarse, also from MHS, said he was amazed at the information shared by Pacific Islands Club representatives who encouraged him to try working for the company's sports programs.

"Because I do really love sports, I think I will try it," he said, adding that he hopes to get the job for the summer.

According to Stephanie Blas, an MHS student, the fair not only helped her prepare for her future job but it also motivated her to develop her self-esteem and become independent. "It's a nice feeling that we're finding a job on our own," she said.

The Cooperative Program, sometimes referred to as "Co-op", consists of both Cooperative Education, which occurs on campus, and Cooperative Training, which occurs off campus. In the Cooperative Education class, students complete resumes, application letters, interviews, personal development, related field trips and other projects.

Government agencies and private firms that participated in yesterday's event were All-Star Sporting Goods, Boarderline, CNMI PSS-HRO, CNMI PSS-SpEd/Related Services, DCCA-Child Care Program, Delta Management, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Hafadai Beach Hotel, Hard Rock Café, Hyatt Regency Saipan, IT&E, JC Tenorio Ent., Joeten Motor Company, Inc., Joeten's Ace Hardware, Marianas Visitors Authority, NMHC, NMPASI, Northern Marianas College, Office of Adult Probation, P.O.I., Pacific Islands Club, Palm's Resort, Saipan Grand Hotel, Saipan World Resort, Sorensen Media Saipan, Tan Holdings Corp., The Athlete's Foot, and WIA.

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Don't include class action members on Labor's overstayers list–lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney Robert Myers objected yesterday to the Department of Labor's inclusion of some of his class action clients on the Department of Labor's list of alleged overstaying aliens.

Myers told Saipan Tribune that the names of the alien workers are on the exhibit in the class action suit against Labor and its officials yet the department still included these workers on its overstayers' list.

"Deanne Siemer, as special counsel for Labor, knows well enough that the case law, even the new Commonwealth Employment Act's rules and regulations, says that if you filed a complaint with the court, you are entitled to a stay from deportation," he said.

The lawyer said he has been getting a lot of calls from worried class action clients after seeing their names on the overstayers list.

Myers encouraged those class members who are on the list to contact him so he could help prevent their being harassed or arrested for deportation.

The lawyer also encouraged other alien workers who are on that same list to contact him so they may learn more about their legal rights.

"They can call me at 234-3184 extension 104, or fax at 234-3077, or e-mail me at Lwyr4u@gmail.com, or visit my website at www.Lwyr4u.com," Myers said.

Labor published last Dec. 1 a list containing the names of 624 people who are allegedly overstaying for the years 2003 through 2007.

Alien workers who sued their former employers for wage and overtime violations and had been awarded damages filed the class action against Labor, Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas, Deputy Secretary Cinta Kaipat, and Director Barry Hirshbein to enforce the collection of the money owed them. The class action also named as co-defendants 20 unnamed surety or bonding or insurance companies.

Myers had asked the Superior Court to compel Labor and co-defendants to enforce the surety's obligations under the statutory labor bonds.

The total proceeds of the labor bonds involved in the class action filed by 127 alien workers amounts to $557,977, according to Myers.

Siemer has denied that the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007 requires Labor to collect awards made in the administrative orders issued in Labor cases.

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

February 20, 2001

Due to social promotion, CNMI gets ill-trained workers?

Like US mainland schools, Northern Marianas' educational system produces its share of students who advance in the academic ladder through a nationally-recognized problem called social promotion. Board of Education Chair Anthony Pellegrino acknowledged the issue as a pressing dilemma in CNMI public schools, where students with slow learning skills are permitted to march to the next grade level to make way for a fresh slate of incoming students. "We are trying very hard to overcome this practice from continuing," said Mr. Pellegrino. In such cases, some students whose reading and writing abilities are comparable to those in lower years are allowed to graduate for the basic reason of preventing a bottleneck of students in public educational institutions.

NMIRF may pull out major investments in Asia

The NMI Retirement Fund might be compelled to pull out its major investments in Asia due to the continued economic crisis that has been invariably affecting the status of its investment portfolio. Fund officials already set the remaining three quarters of FY2001 to allow major Asian investments to rebound as recommended by portfolio managers although there are possible changes in terms of stocks and investments abroad by next year, NMIRF Board Chair Vicente Camacho disclosed Friday. Should investments in Asian region fail to move up and continue its down trend movement, NMIRF has no other alternative but to re-invest its stocks somewhere else where investments are likely to prosper.

February 20, 2002

Saipan's water supply in danger

The proposed Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Training Facility at the Saipan International Airport poses a risk of contaminating Saipan's best drinking water drawn from the Isley Well Field, the source of 60-percent of the island's water supply. The facility, if erected at the proposed site, increases the risk of fuel release, and the contamination of the water source by firefighting foam and other wastes, according to the Division of Environmental Quality. "This [facility] includes tanks and piping for jet fuel, firefighting foam, and the disposal of several thousand gallons per training event of burn-pad cooling water, which will contain measurable quantities of both," said DEQ deputy chief Antonio I. DeLeon Guerrero.

CNMI govt assets reach $1B

The good news is that, by September 30, 2000, the CNMI government had total assets of about $1 billion, total liabilities of about $324 million, and total fund equity of $696 million. The bad news is that, covering the same period, the General Fund had an accumulated deficit of $69.5 million and a net fund deficit of $33 million. These were just some of the highlights of two reports released by external auditor Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu on the Commonwealth's financial statements ending September 30, 2000. The Office of the Public Auditor released the reports yesterday.

February 20, 2003

Puerto Rico dumpsite padlocked

CNMI officials led by Gov. Juan N. Babauta and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente yesterday chained shut the gates of the Puerto Rico dump, with student representatives given the opportunity to padlock the gates. "I'm so glad that they finally closed it [dump]. It's such an ugly view, especially for tourists," said Aileen Alcala, a 9th grader at the Mt. Carmel School. Together with fellow student Christopher Ching, Alcala padlocked the gates of Puerto Rico in a final gesture that puts behind decades of efforts to rid the CNMI of this eyesore. Babauta described the momentous event as "a new era of respect for our natural environment." "Today, we are closing the Puerto Rico dump and we are closing it forever," Babauta said, at the same time gesturing as if throwing away a phantom key, provoking laughter among the audience. "We will restore this part of the lagoon to a healthy beach here on Saipan," he added.

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EDITORIAL

Buy-buy, Mr. Burris

When then-Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested in December for, among other things, allegedly trying to auction off the U.S. Senate seat left open by Barack Obama's election to the presidency, we feared that whomever Mr. Blagojevich eventually chose would be tainted by the association. Enter Roland W. Burris, a former Illinois state attorney general who swore up and down that there had been no quid pro quo involved in his selection. "There was certainly no pay-to-play involved," Mr. Burris assured last month, "because I don't have no money." And then this Associated Press bulletin hit Tuesday afternoon: "Burris acknowledges trying to raise campaign funds for Blagojevich as he vied for Senate seat."

This blockbuster disclosure came after Mr. Burris released an affidavit over the weekend that he filed with the Illinois House impeachment committee this month that revealed he was asked by Mr. Blagojevich's brother to raise campaign money for the governor. In testimony before the committee in January, when asked about conversations with associates of the governor, Mr. Burris had acknowledged only one conversation with a former chief of staff for Mr. Blagojevich in which Mr. Burris expressed interest in the open Senate seat.

Mr. Burris' story has more twists than the Chicago El, and none of them good. Caught in a swirl of accusations of perjury and calls for his resignation from state Democrats and Republicans alike, Mr. Burris said Tuesday, "I welcome the opportunity to go before any and all investigative bodies, including those referred by Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and the Senate ethics committee to answer any questions they have." When that opportunity arises, why should anyone believe him?

From the moment that Mr. Burris was selected, he strove to portray himself as a blameless public servant. The sad pictures of Mr. Burris being cast out into the rain by the Democratic leadership of the Senate, which initially refused to seat him, turned public opinion in his favor. Mr. Burris got his seat. But this latest revelation makes a mockery of his professions of no quid pro quo. It is a violation of the public trust. The people of Illinois have suffered enough. Mr. Burris should resign.

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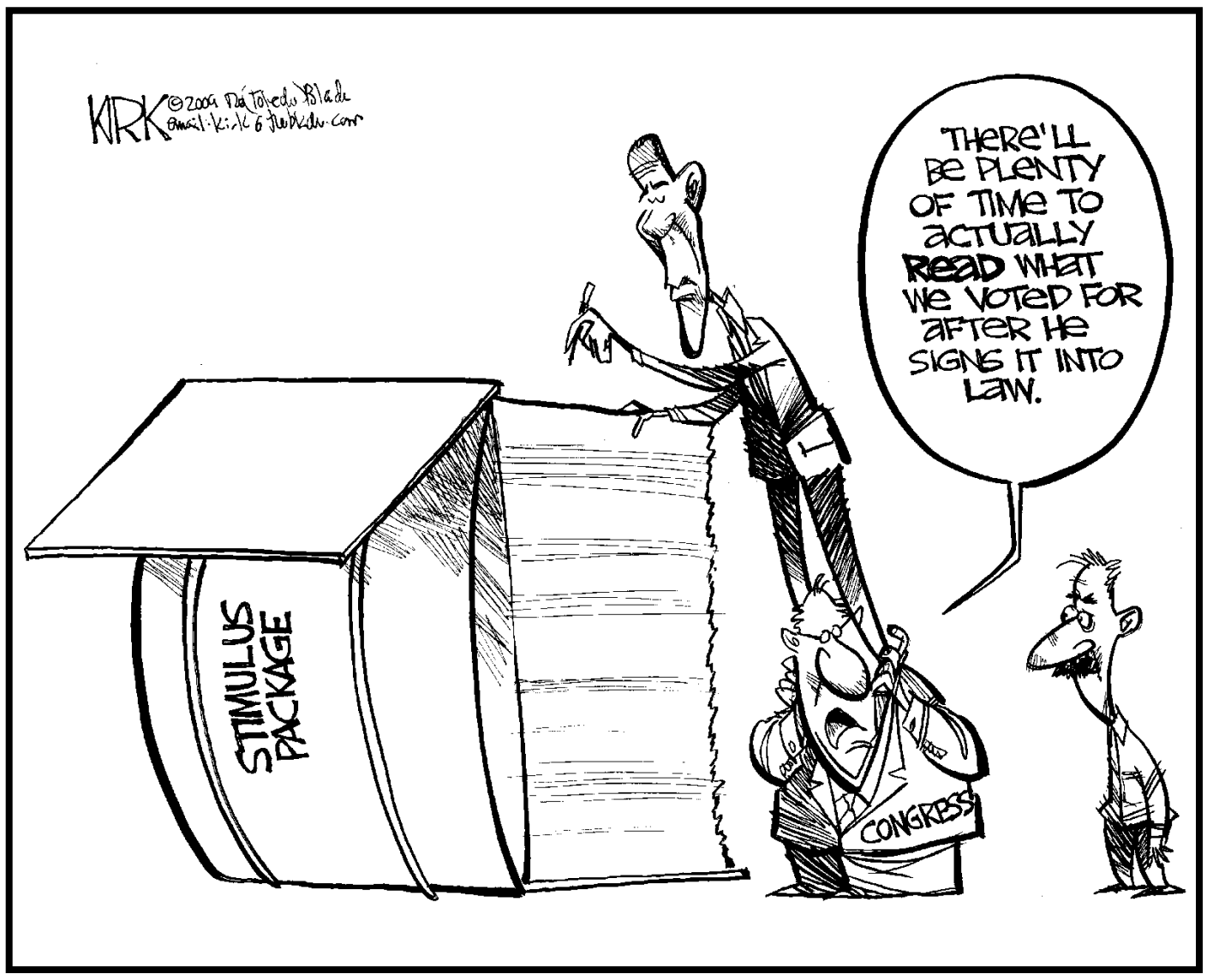
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The dysfunctional duo

By HAROLD MEYERSON
Special to The Washington Post

Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect *and the* L.A. Weekly.

We are hemorrhaging jobs just now, but by historic standards, unemployment may look a little low. The official unemployment rate (which understates actual unemployment, to be sure) is at 7.6 percent, a far cry from the 10 percent-plus during the downturn of the early 1980s. In those years, Midwestern manufacturing shed more jobs than it is shedding today. Where's the comparable unemployment now?

It's out there, and then some. Only, it's in East Asia. We've offshored it.

In China, where exports dropped 17.5 percent in January, tens of thousands of factories have closed, and the government estimates that 20 million migrant workers—rural Chinese who moved to manufacturing zones for the work—have lost their jobs. Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan all project declines in their gross domestic products this year.

The problem is that East Asia is one big export platform, and its mega-importer—the United States—has stopped buying. If the emblematic image of the Great Depression was that of Americans lined up for bread or living in urban shantytowns, the signature image of the current collapse is the acres of Japanese-made cars gathering dust in the immense parking lots abutting the Los Angeles and Long Beach harbors. According to Morgan Stanley economists, exports account for 47 percent of the output of East Asia's developing economies. Here in the United States, consumption accounted for more than 70 percent of our GDP on the eve of our consumer meltdown.

The solution for East Asia, and China in particular, is to change its economic strategy. Instead of relying so heavily on exports, China will have to increase its domestic consumption. It will have to invest in upgrading its infrastructure and establish social insurance programs so that its citizens, instead of hoarding money, will be able to spend more. It will have to allow wage levels to rise, creating a more stable domestic market for its goods.

Devising a successful economic strategy for the United States is a good deal trickier. When our economic elites offshored much of our manufacturing sector to East Asia and other cheap-labor lands, and took arms against union labor here at home, they ensured that most of the American jobs created over the past quarter-century would come in retail and service sectors that paid less than manufacturing. Every year for the past couple of decades, we've added lots more sales-clerk, cashier and fast-food jobs than we've created in high technology or energy. Yet Americans have been able to maintain middle-class living standards—not through rising income but through rising debt, available to us because China has funneled the immense revenue it amassed selling us goods back to us in the form of loans that we can no longer repay.

At the center of the global meltdown, then, is the misshapen economic codependency of the United States and China. Each has followed a fundamentally unstable economic model, with one nation suppressing wages so that it could export more and the other living on borrowed funds so that it could purchase more. Despite the sharply different roles that each nation carved for itself, though, a shared characteristic allowed them to chart their ultimately disastrous course.

What do the United States and China have in common? They are the only two major economic powers that are resolutely hostile to unions. In China, any unions not controlled by the state are outlawed, which is why so many protests about unpaid wages and the like take the form of riots; there's no legal way to enforce workers' rights. In the United States for the past 30 years, business has been implacably opposed to labor, routinely violating the National Labor Relations Act rather than permitting employees to join unions.

Over the past few years, as global alliances of unions have begun to win agreements with global corporations, there's been one major impediment to such accords. "I always look at the percentage of a company's revenues from two nations, China and the U.S.," says Ron Oswald of the International Union of Food Workers, "in deciding whether to push for an international agreement." That's what happens when worker organizing is all but forbidden.

But suppose that China and the United States did have powerful unions. In China, such unions might have pushed for higher wages, social insurance and more domestic consumption. Here, such unions would have preserved more of a manufacturing sector and boosted wages in the service and retail sectors, so that American consumers could have relied more on income than on credit to make their purchases. The two nations would have had more sustainable economic strategies. And the world economy might not now be plunging into what, so far, appears to be a bottomless pit.

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Letters to the Editor

Protecting our own

What evidence can the United States provide to show that the safety measures adopted by the CNMI to protect its citizens against the possible threats from China and Russia are inadequate? What threats exist? Are the threats bigger than the economic devastation that the CNMI will most assuredly experience? Do the threats merit expending millions of dollars to implement extra security measures? And is the United States ready to deal with the social-economic impact that the implementation of federal immigration laws will bring?

The following are excerpts from *China Daily*: "The latest statistics from National Tourism Administration of China said that about 46 million mainland tourists traveled overseas last year, up 12 percent from 2007 figures. The administration also predicted that outbound travel would grow by 9 percent to 50 million tourists this year, despite the global recession.

"Though financial woes have left Wall Street gloomy, it has not hindered Chinese tourists' enthusiasm to see the Wall Street Bull, the New York City's symbolic statue of financial optimism and prosperity. During the Spring Festival holiday, starting from January 25, the Big Apple is expected to be a travel hub and shopping paradise for Chinese tourists, due to the economic slowdown and yuan appreciation which have lead to falls in hotel and flight prices, discounted tour package and luxury shopping deals in the United States. The U.S. is not the only hot destination for Chinese travelers. Other overseas markets, such as Europe, Australia and Japan are also benefiting."

If the United States can allow the Chinese into New York, what is the big issue in allowing them into the CNMI? When the tourist industry took off way back when, we saw the initial stage of labor practice complaints from the U.S., when the garment industry succeeded the decline of tourist industry, we heard louder complaints from the continent. When the North American Free Trade agreement did not stifle the garment production in the CNMI, we saw little people, hoping to make big names for themselves, marching to Washington D.C. for bigger exposure! When neither of these worked, WTO came into the picture succeeding to kill the garment industry in the CNMI, but to the economic benefit of the U.S., since they can now buy cheaper and more products from China. Now we see the military coming back to Guam, bringing a large number of military personnel and their families. CNMI is eyed as maybe an extension of military playgrounds, turning soldiers into big, bad, fighting machines! With this comes the plan to implement federal immigration laws. This means that our labor pool will be reduced to practically nothing to support what is left of our tourist industry. And if other hotel and hospitality industry shut down due to lack of labor resource then that will mean the reduction of services available to tourists which, in turn, will make us a very unattractive destination, thereby killing our tourist industry.

Let us look at the staging here and arrive at an idea of what might happen next. Little Insignificant Chamorro Me thinks that: The next target is land alienation. The military might establish permanent posts on Tinian, Saipan, and Rota. Military personnel might bring their families. Their families might need jobs and some of them might even get out of the military and make the CNMI their permanent home. Economic development then might be encouraged since there might not be enough jobs for the good U.S. citizens to maintain their heaven on earth livelihood. And then they might fight for their inherent U.S. right to own property in a U.S. territory! That is all, folks. I wish all of you a good day. Continue on with your life as if nothing will happen that will greatly affect your life and your posterity. Otherwise, if you really do not wish to see our Covenant go down the drain and allow everyone else to make decisions for us, then feel free anytime to practice your U.S. constitution right to gather and demonstrate. Take back what you own and protect it with every fiber of your being! It is now time for us to take our cause to Washington D.C.

Juanita Mendiola
Marpo Valley, Tinian

CNMI Legislature: Gutless, incompetent or just running scared?

When the entire House votes against a request to investigate the lieutenant governor, you have to ask yourself what is going on. I think this is the first time they all agreed on anything. So why were they so fast to say "no" to an investigation? Are they afraid of the lieutenant governor? What does he have on the members of the Legislature? What are they afraid will come to light if there is an investigation?

All that put to the side. Something needs to be done about the lieutenant governor. At the very least he should be placed on administrative leave without pay until his trial is over. If he is found to be as innocent as he claims, he would be reinstated complete with the back pay. If he is found to be guilty, the problem is solved. But to have an indicted person signing legislation into law is a slap in the face to every resident of the CNMI, not to mention the legal mess that will be created if he is found guilty.

New subject: the Retirement Fund. There are members of the Legislature that have been there for 16-20 years. They sat there and let the government get deeper and deeper in debt to the Retirement Fund and did nothing. But here comes election year. Now to make it look to the people that they are doing something, they are making noises about finding a way for the government to pay the Fund. Had they done their jobs 12 years ago, we would not be in this mess. Just stop and think about it for a minute. Just what has the Legislature done for the people of the CNMI in the last 12 years? What have they done to make life better for the average working resident of the CNMI? You know I cannot off the top of my head think of anything. Is it time for some new blood in the Legislature? You decide and vote for the people that want to make life better for all of us. Not just for them. Then we have the solution that the governor put forth in his first year in office. In other words, the Retirement Fund should write off the government debt as a non-collectable bill. Let's hear it for better times.

If the Legislature is looking for someone to impeach, how about the governor? If you need a charge, how about subversion? The people of the CNMI elected a delegate to the U.S. Congress, now the governor send somebody else to D.C. as his personal representative. I thought the people of the CNMI elected a man to do that job. Now the governor wants to go around the system. That sounds like subversion to me. First, the governor lies to us about the funding for his ill-advised lawsuit; now he goes behind our backs so he would not have to work with a representative we elected. What next?

As usual I must make it clear that the ideas that I am putting forth are mine and mine alone. All I can hope for is the people to read it and stop and think about what is going on.

To be fair, I must give credit where credit is due. Hats off to the Senate for voting to override the governor's veto on the budget. To the members of the House all I can say is "wake up." If you trade your votes for favors, the whole island will know about it. Ask yourself, is it worth it?

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

National security concerns

While the United States is preparing and seeking negotiations for a permanent and stable peace with North Korea in pursuit of nuclear disarmament, our governor and members of the business community are suing the U.S. government, in particular the Department of Homeland Security. Recently, our Legislature joined in passing a resolution to support of our Washington Delegate Kilili Sablan's request for a 180-day delay, the reason being that our homeland is in an economic crisis and are questioning the exclusion of the Russian and China markets by DHS on visa waivers.

We have reason to believe that our government, Legislature, the business community and our Washington Delegate have no idea about the extent and implications surrounding national security. Now MVA is asking for public input on the matter.

Two weeks ago, on Feb. 8, 2009, *The New York Times* reported that Western diplomats were expecting Vice President Biden to announce a strategic review of a planned missile defense system as a way to defuse tensions between Washington and Moscow. Vice President Biden seemed to be balancing the need to appear firm with the administration's hope to reverse the several-year slide in American-Russian relations. Russian cooperation is considered important to American attempts to keep Iran and North Korea from continuing with their nuclear programs.

On Feb. 14 on CNN Asia, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in a 45-minute address to the New York-based Asia Society that the Obama administration is prepared to seek a permanent, stable peace with Pyongyang as long as its government pursues disarmament and does not engage in aggression against neighboring South Korea. "If North Korea is genuinely prepared to completely and verifiably eliminate their nuclear weapons program, the Obama administration will be willing to normalize bilateral relations, replace the peninsula's lon-standing armistice agreements with a permanent peace treaty and assist in meeting the energy and other economic needs of the North Korean people," she said. The United States wants to move forward with the six-party talks, working with China, South Korea, Japan, Russia and North Korea to address North Korea's nuclear program, she said. However, keeping in line with the Obama administration's approach of "engaging" its enemies, Clinton said the United States would consider bilateral contacts with Pyongyang.

Despite the olive branch, Clinton warned Pyongyang "to avoid any provocative action or unhelpful rhetoric toward South Korea." Tensions between Pyongyang and its neighbor South Korea has increased in recent weeks, with North Korea announcing it would scrap peace agreements with the South, warning of a war on the Korean peninsula and threatening to test a missile capable of hitting the western United States.

Clinton also sought to reassure Japan, the top U.S. ally in the region, about its key concern, promising to meet with the families of Japanese citizens kidnapped by North Korea in the 1970s and 1980s. Calling the 50-year-old United States security alliance with Japan "unshakable," Clinton said she will sign an agreement to move 8,000 U.S. troops from Okinawa to the island of Guam.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano

CDA mismanagement

In response to the article on today's issue of *Saipan Tribune*, "CDA offices on Rota blocked": The property in question is a private property and the landowners have every right to block and/or give access to whomever they wish. CDA's Oscar Camacho should be fired immediately by the board for his failure to have the property titled search. If they did, they would have found that the property needs to be probated. And as of to date, the probate has not been completed. Their attorney, Matthew Smith, should also be fired from representing CDA for his failure to provide proper legal advice. CDA's claim on the property is moot, invalid, and void because of their failure make sure that the title is cleared before accepting it as collateral. CDA's Oscar Camacho's attitude toward its clients is arrogant and their management practices are more like a bank's rather than a development agency. And I'm sure that many CDA clients are experiencing the same predicament due CDA's gross mismanagement.

Glenn H. Manglona
Administrator of the estate of Vicente A. Manglona
Songsong, Rota

'Don't count your chickens yet'

Juan Pan recently came out stating how confident he is that he will be the next governor. I am deeply troubled by this, considering how many candidates are running for this office and how competitive the gubernatorial race seems to be.

In my opinion, Juan Pan should not treat the people of the CNMI with such disrespect and contempt. He should not take our voters for granted and pocket our votes even before they are actually counted *after* the election is done. As a businessman, Mr. Juan Pan should know better than to count his chickens before they hatched, nine months before the vote. This way is too premature and a lot can happen in the intervening months between now and Election Day.

I personally feel that a gubernatorial candidate should be humble and respectful of the people. He should not take people for granted or be too arrogant or overconfident. In a time like this, we need humble, prudent, and even-tempered leaders, not arrogant hotheads making premature or naughty pronouncements. I am disappointed in Juan Pan. I wish he would display more respect and humility in keeping with our island culture.

Marvin S. Pangelinan
Kagman 3, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

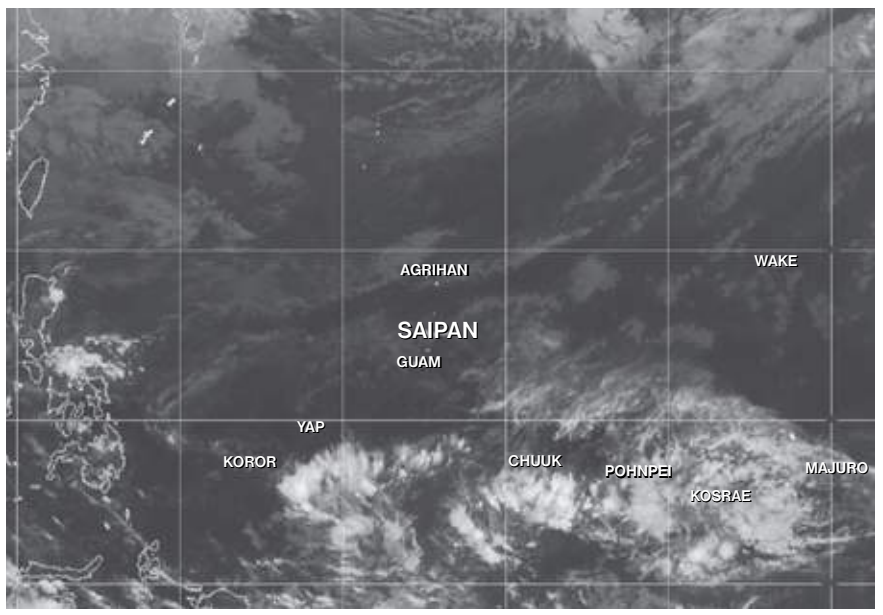
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼74
Palau	Showers	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲79	▼69
Beijing	Sunny	▲34	▼21
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼64
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲74	▼66
London	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼37
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲74	▼48
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼75
Melbourne	Showers	▲73	▼59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲70	▼53
New York	Cloudy	▲34	▼26
Osaka	Rain/Snow	▲45	▼32
Paris	Cloudy	▲45	▼38
Pusan	Cloudy	▲43	▼25
Rome	Sunny	▲50	▼27
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲55	▼34
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼46
Seoul	Flurries	▲27	▼11
Tokyo	Rain	▲53	▼34
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲39	▼27

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, THURSDAY, FEB. 19, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N160E to 22N156E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 14N. Cloudiness, patchy rain and embedded showers are found along and up to 300 miles to the northwest of the front and shear line. A surface trough extends northwestward from a weak circulation centered near 2N145E to 8N143E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms can be found southeast of Yap between the equator and 8N from 140E to 148E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Chuuk and Pohnpei and over Kosrae between 3N and 7N from 152E to 167E. Trade-wind convergence is also generating scattered showers southeast of Majuro within 75 miles of a line extending eastward from 5N173E to 5N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

6:27 AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:00 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
3:30 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:27 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	6:22 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:57 AM	2:18 PM
Saturday	3:45 AM	3:10 PM
Sunday	4:29 AM	4:02
Monday	5:11 AM	4:53 PM
Tuesday	5:50 AM	5:43 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	2,3,4,5,6
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 099	5:00am	7:35am	Daily
NW 078	8:20am	1:30pm	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily
Guam-Narita			
NW 73	4:10pm	7:00pm	Daily
NW 81	3:55pm	6:55pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
OZ 119	4:00am	6:40am	1,4,6
NW 083	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Guam-Osaka			
NW 79	4:45pm	7:35pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:20am	11:05am	Daily
Guam-Nagoya			
NW 23	4:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Incheon			
OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 119	4:00am	11:25am	1,4,6 via Osaka
OZ 606	3:20pm	7:00pm	Daily
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:20am	6:50am	1,4,5,7
Saipan-Shanghai			
FM 844	2:50am	5:40am	2,6
Rota-Guam			
CO 9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1,7
Guam-Palau			
CO 953	7:40pm	8:40pm	1,7
CO 893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3,5
Palau-Manila			
CO 893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3,5
Guam-Manila			
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3,5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:50am	1,2,4,6,7
Nagoya-Manila			
NW 71	8:40pm	11:55pm	Daily
Incheon-Hongkong			
OZ 721	9:20am	12:00pm	Daily
OZ 723	7:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
OZ 7173	8:00pm	10:50pm	5,7
Narita-Manila			
NW 1	7:00pm	10:55pm	Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	3:25am	4:00am	5,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,2,3,4,7
CO9598	2:30am	4:00am	5,6 via Rota
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:40pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:20am+1	2,3,4,5,6,7
NW 100	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily
Narita-Guam			
NW 74	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
NW 82	10:30am	3:10pm	Daily
Osaka-Saipan			
OZ 120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7
NW 084	10:40am	3:05pm	Daily
Osaka-Guam			
NW 80	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:20am+1	Daily
Nagoya-Guam			
NW 24	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
Incheon-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ 120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3,5,7 via Osaka
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3,4,6,7
Shanghai-Saipan			
FM 843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	2:30am	3:00am	5,6
Palau-Guam			
CO 954	2:30am	5:25am	1,2
CO 892	2:35am	5:30am	4,6
Manila-Palau			
CO 892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3,5
Manila-Guam			
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3,5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:10pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Manila-Nagoya			
NW 72	6:30am	11:05am	Daily
Hongkong-Incheon			
OZ 724	12:30am	4:50am	Daily
OZ 7183	12:45am	5:05am	1,4,6
OZ 722	1:30pm	5:45pm	Daily
Manila-Narita			
NW 2	7:45am	12:40pm	Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

CUC sets 4-hour outage next week

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has scheduled a four-hour power outage on Feb. 28 so its men could do maintenance work on Feeders 4 and 7.

The affected areas include:

■ Feeder 4: Entire grid, portions of Lower Base, Sadog Tasi, Capital Hill, Kagman and portions of Papago (Botanical Garden);

■ Feeder 7: Entire Grid, Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag, Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis and Marpi.

CUC said its Power Division personnel will replace two rotten primary poles in the San Roque area, replace one air brake system in Tanapag (by the Mobil gas station), and clear vegetation on primary lines throughout Feeder 4 and 7.

"Because of the danger involved to the linemen working on or near high voltage power lines, the electrical power supply to Feeders 4 and 7 circuit will require to be temporarily de-energized from 6am to 10am to ensure the safety of our crew," CUC said.

This maintenance will coincide with the ongoing Pacific Linemen Training Program funded by the Department of the Interior. PLT training instructor Chris Middleton will observe the projects.

"Although many areas of the existing electrical system is aged it is realized that by performing this required maintenance to the electrical grid, it will have an immediate impact in improving the distribution of power safely to the respective feeders," CUC said. "CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this power interruption schedule will impose on the community and will continue to work diligently to minimize the interruption." *(CUC)*

Petition, letter writing focus on draft tourism visa rules

The Marianas Visitors Authority continues to urge community members to join the petition and letter writing campaign seeking a delay by the Department of Homeland Security in the implementation of proposed tourism visa regulations.

This week MVA clarified that the petition does seek an overall delay in CNMI immigration federalization under PL 110-229, which includes tourism visa regulations affecting visitors from the People's Republic of China and Russia.

"The community's concern addressed by this petition is the exclusion of visitors from the PRC and Russia, only," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "We want to clarify that this petition asks that the CNMI be allowed to receive visitors from these two source markets."

The PRC and Russia exclusion, coupled with Japan air service cuts by Northwest Airlines beginning next month and lower arrivals from Korea this year, is anticipated to cut CNMI revenue by 35.2 percent annually. MVA has estimated the CNMI will lose 656 public sector jobs and 733 private sectors jobs if PRC and Russia are excluded in the proposed Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

"If tourism shrinks, the number of jobs will also shrink. That's a concern for both public and private sector employees, and we strongly urge employees to let DHS know that the People's Republic of China and Russia are important for all of us," said Tenorio.

The petition request the delay of the start of the transition period for 180 days or until the required additional security measures of Section III (A) (2) are in place and the DHS has made a determination that visitors from the PRC and Russia can participate in the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program and amends the regulations.

Individuals interested in signing or circulating petitions or attaining a form letter may visit the MVA office or download a copy and instructions at www.mymarianas.com. Questions regarding the petition may be addressed to mva@mymarianas.com. Petitions should be returned to MVA by Feb. 27, 2009, for compilation and delivery to DHS. Comments on the rules may also be submitted directly to DHS at www.regulations.gov, enter USCBP-2009-0001. *(MVA)*

Sakisat reviving Tinian senatorial bid

Sakisat

Martin M. Sakisat, who last ran as senator for Tinian in 2007 but lost, is reviving his bid for the position.

Sakista said he is planning to run again as senator and he will be seeking the endorsement of the Covenant Party on Tinian.

He said he intends to file his letter of intention before the end of next month to the Covenant Party on Tinian. "My platform is basically the same platform I used in my last bid," he said.

He said he was inspired to run again as "I have observed that the timing now, when we are experiencing this global crisis, now is not the time to change the captain of the ship on Tinian and the CNMI."

He said he wants to run under the Covenant Party because he feels that, with both the Tinian mayor and the incumbent governor being under that party, "I could work with compatibility with the administration on Tinian and the Fitial administration."

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2X4X18 - $5.80	2X4X18 - $9.70
2X4X20 - $6.40	2X4X20 - $10.70
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R08-019F	2005	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	41092	WHITE	ACD-346	10,799	
R08-023F	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	29549	RED	ACE-780	~~14,999~~	12,999
U08-090R	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	42193	BLUE	ACJ-553	11,399	
U09-001L	2006	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	32900	WHITE	ACE-506	11,399	
R08-008F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	18576	BEIGE	ADN-161	15,999	
R08-020F	2006	CAMRY LE 4DR	AUTO	50052	RED	ADO-831	~~15,999~~	13,999
U08-043P	2000	CELICA 2DR	MANUAL	72097	BLUE	ABZ-838	7,999	
R08-021F	2005	MATRIX BASE	AUTO	68931	RED	ACD-510	9,999	
GM CARS								
R08-014F	2006	AVEO 4DR.	AUTO	33945	WHITE	ADS-642	~~9,999~~	7,299
U08-083R	2006	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	8243	WHITE	ACH-963	5,699	
R07-013F	2005	AVEO HATCHBACK	AUTO	39164	ORANGE	ADO-022	~~9,599~~	6,899
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	9,499
LEXUS								
U08-067P	1995	LEXUS LS400	AUTO	24762	WHITE	ABS-062	~~11,399~~	7,599
R08-003F	2003	LEXUS LS430	AUTO	54477	IVORY	ADU-502	~~29,999~~	23,999
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U09-011T	2003	NISSAN FRONTIER XE KINGCAB	AUTO	46781	SAND		8,999	
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR.	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
U08-038T	2001	MITS MONTERO WGN	AUTO	93155	BEIGE	CVS-88	7,999	
GM VAN								
R09-002F	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	101951	WHITE	BUS-1231	9,999	
R08-017F	2003	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	117560	WHITE	BUS-1077	~~9,499~~	5,399
U08-092L	2005	EXPRESS VAN	AUTO	78403	WHITE	BUS-1201	~~10,999~~	8,999
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U07-050T	2002	RAV4 4DR 4WD	AUTO	39182	WHITE	ABW-677	~~13,699~~	12,799

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DPH plans 2-year contracts for foreign hires

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Health is planning to give two-year contracts to foreign nurses and other non-U.S. citizen employees in light of the start of the transition to a federal immigration system come June 1, unless delayed.

This was among the key statements by Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez during a meeting with employees last week to discuss federalization issues, according to sources.

"Right now it's only a plan. This is to accommodate non-U.S. citizen employees even after June 1 or Nov. 28, depending on when the transition period begins," one of the sources said yesterday.

Hundreds of DPH employees are not U.S. citizens, and some of them earlier expressed concern that they may lose their jobs once CNMI immigration comes under federal control as early as June 1.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes yesterday said there is nothing surprising about DPH choosing two-year contracts for its nonresident employees for the same reasons a private company opting to do so.

The CNMI Division of Immigration recently issued amendments to the CNMI immigration rules and regulations that allow for, among other things, two-year permits for foreign workers, immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent residents, foreign investors and foreign students.

The regulations also state that the Immigration director shall make available automatic two-year permits for permanent residents of the CNMI should permitting be required for any reason.

The two-year permits are meant to give IRs and other foreigners more time to secure their stay even after the federal government takes over CNMI immigration as early as June 2009. Employers are also assured that they will still have their foreign employees for at least two years from the date of the transition, giving them more time to secure a more permanent status for needed workers.

Govendo issues injunction vs Rota landowners

Judge orders landowners to talk with CDA to resolve easement dispute

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo has issued an injunction preventing two landowners on Rota from blocking a road or harassing anyone going to the offices of the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. on the island.

In Wednesday's hearing, Govendo ordered Evelyn Manglona Mendiola and Glenn H. Manglona from blocking or putting up "no trespassing" signs on the easement that leads to CDA's property.

Govendo urged Mendiola and Manglona to talk with CDA counsel F. Matthew Smith to resolve the issue.

The judge told CDA to check the fence near the road that, according to Mendiola, has electricity to secure the cows.

"I don't want anyone ending up being bacon!" Govendo said.

Govendo told Mendiola that giving CDA and NMHC the injunction does not imply that the easement property is not hers, but that "there should be a way of resolving [the issue]."

The judge told Mendiola to get an attorney and finish the probate on the land.

Mendiola, who participated in the hearing through the phone, admitted that she was the one who blocked the road because that's her property.

Mendiola emphasized that the reason why she is concerned about trespassing in the property is because the fence is electrified. "The fence around it is electric. That's why I don't want to be liable," she said.

Smith said he is not aware of the electric fence.

Mendiola said if her brother, Glenn Manglona, foreclosed his property, it's his problem with CDA, and not hers.

Govendo said that Manglona also needs a lawyer. "Glenn, you're using lawyer logic, but you are going in the wrong direction!" Govendo said.

Manglona said his sister can do whatever she wants with the land because that's her property.

Manglona blamed CDA for allegedly not doing its job in checking that the subject property has not been fully resolved through a pending probate. He said CDA did not check if the property that he had put up as collateral in his loan was clear of any interest.

Smith asserted that CDA did check.

The judge also removed Dianne Manglona Quitugua from the case after learning that she was not involved in the disputed property.

Govendo stated that he wants to look into the probate of the land that was handled by former judge Juan T. Lizama.

Govendo earlier issued a temporary restraining order preventing Manglona, Mendiola, and Quitugua from harassing or contacting CDA and NMHC and their staff on Rota.

In the TRO issued Friday, Govendo ordered the three or any of their representatives to immediately remove all obstruction or barriers such as ropes or cars, blocking the easement that allows access to CDA's property.

CDA and NMHC on Friday filed a petition to enjoin the three respondents from blocking any person's or entity's access to CDA's real property on Rota.

Judge imposes 7-day term on man who assaulted stepfather

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona M. Manglona has imposed a seven-day prison term on a man who, while intoxicated, hit his stepfather on the head.

Manglona sentenced Marcelo Taitano Lisua Jr. to one year in prison, all suspended except for seven days, for assault and battery.

Following a plea agreement, the judge gave the 38-year-old Lisua credit for one day he has already spent in jail.

The defendant was ordered to start serving the remaining six days at the Department of Corrections on Monday at 8am.

Manglona placed Lisua on probation for one year and required him to pay a $100 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and $100 in annual probation service fee.

She required the defendant to perform 100 hours of community service and barred him from drinking or possessing any alcoholic beverages for the entire probation period.

The Attorney General's Office charged Lisua with assault and battery, and criminal mischief.

Lisua and counsel, assistant public defender Matthew Holley, signed a plea agreement with the government. The defendant pleaded guilty to assault and battery, a crime involving domestic violence.

The criminal mischief charge was dismissed pursuant to the agreement.

The agreement stated that on July 15, 2007, while intoxicated, Lisua hit his stepfather, Marcelo Toledo Adoca, in the head.

Police said the defendant also damaged the windshield of the victim's car that same day. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Hyatt's i Sagua Spa expands treatment menu

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The i Sagua Spa at Hyatt Regency Saipan has expanded its signature treatments available for local and off-island guests.

Team leader-therapist Andy Roda said customers can now have a choice of four- and two-hour treatments that adhere to the spa's four concepts, which is to nourish (bula), restore (tasi), cleanse (ma'te), and energize (hafnot).

Dubbed i Sagua Journeys, the four-hour treatment starts with a unique herbal-infused bath ritual at the spa's deluxe suite.

Roda said bula intends to flood the body with the nourishing, revitalizing properties of fresh botanicals and essential minerals with treatments utilizing natural elements.

It starts with a Kalachucha Floral Bath Ritual, followed by Tangerine Citrus Polish, Mariana Island Massage, Kalachucha Foot Wrap, and concludes with Kalachucha Flower Facial.

Tasi, meanwhile, consists of a Chamomile Bath Ritual, Aloe and Lavender Wrap, Aromatherapy Massage, and Soothing After Sun Facial.

Ma'te spoils customers with its Purifying Algae Bath Ritual, Back and Shoulder Massage, Mariana Island Herbal Infusion, and Deep Cleansing Facial.

Pine Bath Ritual, Invigorating Thermal Mineral Salt Polish, Muscle Relief Massage, and Antioxidant Vitamin C Facial then awaits those who opt for the hafnot.

i Sagua Retreats, as the two-hour treatment is called, is identical to i Sagua Journeys however the bath ritual is replaced by a foot ritual.

Both treatments conclude with customers being served a delicious plate of seasonal fruits and I Sagua's signature fruit drink.

In addition to i Sagua Journeys and i Sagua Retreats, customers may also avail of various treatments from the i Sagua a la carte massage list: Mariana Island Signature, Aromatherapy, Volcanic Hot Stone, Muscle Relief, Swedish, Sooting Foot Reflexology, Back, Neck, and Shoulder.

i Sagua also has an array of facial, body polish, and bath ritual treatments available.

i Sagua Spa, which means "channel of water" in Chamorro, occupies a 7,700-square-foot space at Hyatt Regency Saipan and opened in Dec. 21, 2007. It is open from 10am to 10pm Monday to Sunday.

i Sagua Spa is part of Hyatt Pure, which is a worldwide collection of extraordinary spas worldwide, ranging from urban to resort setting. Each spa is custom-designed to embrace the local environment and culture to provide an authentic indigenous experience.

Gift certificates are available. To read more about i Sagua Spa, check its website at www.isaguaspa.com. For reservations, call i Sagua Spa at 323-5888 or email isagua@hyattsaipan.com.

i Sagua Spa's outdoor hot plunge pool.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MARK RABAGO
Hyatt Regency Saipan marketing communications assistant/GSO sales Le Shen, left, poses with i Sagua Spa team leader-therapist Andy Roda at the entrance of i Sagua Spa.

FAMILY FUN DAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shown in this photo are some of the family members of military servicemen during the Family Fun Day on Valentine's Day organized by the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club.

NMC offers promotional rate for Japanese class

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering a short-term course to interested individuals who wish to improve their intermediate Japanese language skills.

The course is offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

Also, the course is designed to reinforce the fundamentals of the Japanese language through the enhancement of one's listening, comprehension, vocabulary, and expression.

The Intermediate Japanese Language Development Course will be handled by instructor Hiroko Yasukata and will be held March 3-May 12, 2009 (every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday), from 3pm to 4pm, at Room Q-1 in the As Terlaje campus. The fee for the entire course is $240.

For a more detailed description of the course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

All interested individuals should register at least seven days before the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. To register or for information about the course, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call John Manalo at 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail johnm@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Fiji rainfall heaviest in a hundred years

SUVA, Fiji (Fijilive/PIR)—Parts of Fiji last month experienced their wettest January in over a century, according to Fiji's Director of Meteorology Rajendra Prasad.

"Some sites received three to four times their normal rainfall for the month," he said.

"The month ended up with 75 percent of the daily climate reporting sites receiving at least twice their normal rainfall and almost the whole country receiving more than one and a half times its usual January rainfall."

Prasad said that most of the rainfall occurred in the period from Jan. 7 to 14 though parts of Vanua Levu continued to receive heavy falls until Jan. 17.

"Unfortunately the daily climate reporting sites at Rarawai Mill, Ba and Nacocolevu, Sigatoka were flooded, resulting in loss of valuable data", Prasad said.

He said that due to the adverse weather conditions in January, 14 monthly totals and seven daily rainfall records were broken.

"The enormous rainfall was due to a number of intense weather systems that affected the Fiji region during the month," Prasad added.

"The January 2009 flood was the worst natural disaster to economically affect Fiji since the drought in 1998 when the loss exceeded [US$88 million] ."

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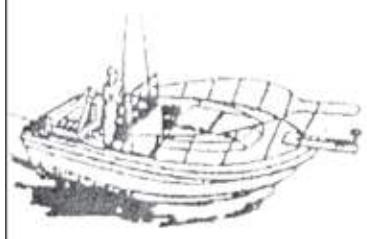

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Bizwoman of the Year nominations close on March 9

TAMUNING, Guam—First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business are now seeking nominations for the fourth annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'Haga Award. The nomination period for the 2009 Businesswoman of the Year will close on March 9, 2009.

The fourth annual Businesswoman of the Year Maga'haga award program recognizes top businesswomen who have made significant contributions to their industries and have shown a strong commitment to their community.

A nominee should be a businesswoman who is a resident of Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands. She is someone who has made a significant difference to business through her organization or through her business; she has contributed to her community; she is a leading representative of her profession or field; and she displays the best qualities of someone in business.

The Maga'haga Award will be presented at the Businesswoman of the Year gala on Saturday, April 25, 2009, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the Guam Business May/June issue, featuring a commissioned photo study of the recipient on its cover. Proceeds from the gala will fund scholarships at the University of Guam, Guam Community College, and Northern Marianas College.

Tickets for the award gala on April 25 may be purchased from Valerie Blas by calling 477-3092 or 483-3092 or e-mailing to kinneys@teleguam.net.

Past recipients include Katherine Calvo Sgro, executive vice president and chairman of the board for Payless Markets Inc., 2006; Christine Won Pat Baleto, general manager of Market Wholesale Distributors, 2007 and Julienne Rose Perez Duenas, physical therapist, owner and clinical director of Sports, Orthopedic and Active Rehabilitation Physical Therapy (S.O.A.R.), 2008. ***(PR)***

Raffle drawing increases participation in DES PTA

Dandan Elementary School's reintroduction of raffle drawings during PTA meetings have resulted in better parental participation, according to principal Jonas Barcinas.

"This year we embarked our strategies by bringing back the raffle drawing concept and for the past three months now, our PTA and school leaders have been seeing so much positive feedback and more parental participation during our monthly PTA meetings," he said.

Barcinas, however, emphasized that, while he understand the difficulties and challenges parents go through, they should attend school PTA meetings regardless if there are raffles or not.

"We are all aware that we do have parents that are working parents, parents without proper transportation and parents with young children. Our parents are just as busy as anyone else."

Barcinas said the raffle drawing concept is just another way of bringing DES parents to attend important meetings.

"Our DES parents have always been very participative in all school functions and with that, the leadership team has decided to provide more incentives for those parents and a family member that shows up will eventually get a raffle ticket per family member."

Barcinas said DES is grateful and proud that its students' parents come to the PTA meetings and help in one way or another.

"It is stressed to all our parents just how important PTA meetings are. We do not want to leave them behind by not inviting them to be a part of the decision-making of their children's education. It is understood through various communication with them such as newsletters, parent letter, phone calls, flyers, just to name a few."

Barcinas also acknowledged the stores and individuals who have donated some in-kind goods to the school's monthly PTA raffle drawings, including Jin's Mart, Mom and Pops store, Jenny's Mart, Taga Mart, Assin Store, Dolphins, Hi Mart, PTA president Vince Torres and family, PTA vice president Ed Arriola, DES principal and vice principal, Rep. Ralph Torres, and Princess Torres.

He also thanked DES PTA officers for purchasing several prizes such as frozen goods, among others, for the raffle drawing. ***(PR)***

Live-fire releases on Farallon set

The Emergency Management Office and U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam is informing the public that the U.S. military would be conducting live fire releases (13 BS/ VFA-27 VAW-115/HSC-25) on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla on Feb. 23 – 27, from 8am to 10pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(EMO)***

Tudela presents new resource on how to stay fit and healthy

At his recent trip to Washington, D.C., for the U.S. Conference of Mayors during the U.S. presidential inauguration week, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela met with Dr. Ian K. Smith, creator and founder of the 50 Million Pound Challenge, who made video presentations and excerpts to Tudela on how people can better control their health, lose weight, and get invigorated to maximize the opportunities that life offers.

As a medical doctor, Dr. Smith is famous for his Million Dollar Challenge initiative. He gladly offered Tudela his "shovel ready" project for Saipan residents who may be interested in controlling their weight, eating healthy meals, routine daily exercises, and yearly visits to one's doctor for physical checkups.

"I wanted to send you a quick note of thanks for allowing me to present to you and the other municipal staff members my 50 Million Pound Challenge during last week's conference," Dr. Smith said in a letter to Tudela this week. "Too many of our loved ones have lost their lives too early or are suffering unnecessarily from medical complications that stem from being overweight or obese," Dr. Smith said.

Tudela is a member of the Health, Education and Welfare Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors for the past six years.

The Office of the Mayor of Saipan is a community partner with the Department of Public Health, the Head Start Program and health providers in the private sector locally. The office also has sponsored walk-a-thons and health checkups in the past to bring public awareness of the importance of daily exercises by walking and running, and other form of physical activities.

Tudela looks forward to introducing Dr. Smith's 50 Million Dollar Pound Challenge to the people of Saipan. Weight watchers and health-conscious residents may now log on to www.50millionpounds.com and get more information on how to stay fit and healthy. ***(PR)***

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[Notice] Closure of Money Remittance to Korea

We are really sorry to announce that money remittance service to Korea is no longer available from January, 2009. If there is anyone who has any questions, comments or complaints on closure of our remittance business, please call to the Office of the Director of Banking at 664-3044.

P&A Corporation [DBA: P&A Money Transfer] Tel: (670) 235-3311

Mariana Islands Range Complex Draft EIS/OEIS Available for Public Comment Jan. 30, 2009 – March 16, 2009

On behalf of the U.S. Defense Representative Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau, the U.S. Navy has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) for the Mariana Islands Range Complex. The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for public comment through March 16, 2009.

Where to get the EIS/OEIS: Visit www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com to download the document or to find a library that has a copy.

The U.S. Defense Representative Wants Your Input!

The U.S. Defense Representative is hosting open house sessions and public hearings to receive oral or written comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

Where to submit comments:

Submit comments via the online form at www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com or send written comments via postal mail or e-mail to:

Mariana Islands Range Complex EIS
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Attn: EV2
Pearl Harbor, HI 96860-3134
E-mail: marianas.tap.eis@navy.mil

All comments must be postmarked by March 16, 2009.

Proposed Action

The U.S. Defense Representative proposes to support and conduct current, emerging and future training and research, development, test and evaluation training activities in the Mariana Islands Study Area. Three alternatives are analyzed in the Draft EIS/OEIS. Under the No Action Alternative, military activities would continue at current levels. Alternatives 1 and 2 propose increases in military activity and the number and types of training events, and enhancements to range capabilities. Alternative 2 also proposes new activities related to additional Major Exercises.

Open House Sessions & Public Hearings
Open House: 5 - 9 p.m.
Public Hearing: 7 - 9 p.m.

Guam:
February 19, 2009
Jesus & Eugenia Leon Guerrero School of Business and Public Administration Building
The Anthony Leon Guerrero Multi-Purpose Room 129
University of Guam
Mangilao, Guam 96923

Guam:
February 20, 2009
Southern High School Cafeteria
#1 Jose Perez Leon Guerrero Drive
Santa Rita, Guam 96915

Saipan:
February 23, 2009
Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe

Tinian:
February 24, 2009
Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria
San Jose Village
Tinian, MP 96952

Rota:
February 26, 2009
Sinapolo Elementary School Cafeteria
Sinapolo I

For more information visit **www.MarianasRangeComplexEIS.com**

Man who stole AMP lights gets 21 months

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court imposed Wednesday a 21-month prison sentence on an employee of the Commonwealth Health Center who was among three men convicted of conspiring to steal portions of metal lighting units at the American Memorial Park.

After completing his prison term, Masaioshy Daikichi Sallem shall be placed on supervised probation for three years, said U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson.

Upon release, Sallem will be referred to an immigration official for deportation, Munson added.

The judge required the defendant to perform 300 hours of community service and pay jointly with co-defendants $35,490 in restitution to the National Park Service and American Memorial Park.

Sallem was also ordered to immediately pay a $200 special assessment fee.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Beverly McCallum had recommended a 21-month prison term with credit for time served, full restitution jointly with co-defendants, and deportation.

Sallem's lawyer, court-appointed counsel Steven Pixley, urged just 10 months.

Leonardo M. Rapadas, the U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, said the Federal Bureau of Investigation took up the case with the assistance of the National Park Service.

"The national parks are treasures for all of us to enjoy. It only takes a few individuals to destroy them. The sentence sends a message that we will protect that resource," Rapadas said.

In October 2008, a federal jury found Sallem guilty of one count of conspiracy to sell government property and one count of unauthorized sale of government property.

The conspiracy and unauthorized sale were related to the theft of lighting units from AMP in November 2007.

Sallem and his co-defendants, Dominic Chipwelong and James Ochcha, are all Chuukese. Chipwelong and Ochcha both entered a guilty plea.

MIFICPA tax seminar tomorrow

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will conduct a tax seminar on tax savings tips for 2008 and recent tax law updates tomorrow, Feb. 21.

The venue shall be at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall. Registration starts at 8am and the seminar session will start promptly at 9am up to 12noon.

Edgar T. Aguilar, manager for Tax Services of Deloitte & Touche LLP, will be the resource person for the seminar.

Participants will have the chance to raise questions on tax matters to maximize money saving measures in filing their 2008 individual and corporate tax returns.

Registration fee per participant will be $12, which covers light breakfast and participant's certificate. Seminar materials will be provided. Renewal of MIFICPA's $5 annual membership dues will be collected on the day of the event only. For new members, the same fee applies.

Seats are limited, so for advance reservation and for more information, contact any of the MIFICPA officers by either text or e-mail: Aileen Indino at 789-0021 (aileenrindino@yahoo.com); Melvin Malvar at 789-2101(mjmalvar@yahoo.com); Marlon Estigoy at 789-7943(marlon@saipan.com) or Christy Villaflor at 989-9123 (villaflor_chris@yahoo.com). ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Ribbon-cutting today for cultural center

Mayor Juan B. Tudela invites residents of Saipan, tour agents and other interested individuals to the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the newly completed Northern Marianas-Japan Cultural Center, Tudela's legacy project, funded under the Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program, today, Friday, Feb. 20, 2009, at 10am at Sugar King Park on Middle Road right across the Saipan Museum. The presence of everyone will be greatly appreciated. ***(PR)***

Fellowship hosts movie screening

The Life in the Son Christian Fellowship is hosting a screening of Fireproof, a post-Valentine movie event, about a fire captain who runs into burning buildings to save someone he doesn't know while he watches his own marriage burn to the ground. All couples and even singles are invited to watch this life-changing movie about "never leaving your partner behind," on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009. Movie showing schedule are at 1:30pm, 4:30pm, and 7pm at the Life in the Son Christian Fellowship facility, Chalan Pale Arnold, 2nd Floor of Alpex Showroom. Childcare will be provided for free. Tickets are $3 for couples and $2 for singles or you may give by donation. For tickets or for more information, email lifeintheson@pticom.com or visit www.lifeintheson.net/fireproof or call 285-4949. ***(PR)***

Tinian Chamber of Commerce election today

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce will conduct its election of 2009 officers today, Feb. 20, at 10:30a, in the Tinian Room at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. All members are encouraged to attend. Applications for membership will be available at the door. Chamber president Don A. Farrell said that only member businesses that have paid the minimum one month due of $10 will be eligible to vote in the election. Only one vote is allowed for each federal tax identification number, no matter the size of the business. ***(PR)***

Family Bingo fundraiser set

The San Antonio Parish is sponsoring a "Family Bingo" fundraising event this Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009, at the Parish Social Hall, from 11:30am to 5:30pm. Bingo cards will be on sale for 50 cents each and $2 a set. Everyone is invited to, come one come all. ***(PR)***

Cupid's Ball at World Resort

Kagman High School's Yearbook Class '09 presents "Cupid's Ball" tomorrow, Feb. 21, 2009, Saturday, at the Saipan World Resort, from 6pm to 10pm. Entertainment will be provided by Power 99 DJ Niana Dela Cruz, KHS Mr. & Mrs. Cupid, and a fashion show. Ticket prices, which include a dinner buffet, is $20 in advance and $25 at the door. The event requires formal attire, with a theme of gold, red, and black. Tickets available at the 670 Rock Steady Shop. ***(PR)***

Marianas High School schedule

Feb. 27 Cultural Day, 9am-3pm MHS Campus, Open to the public. For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

The public is invited to watch and learn about newsmaking issues on John Gonzales Live on KSPN Channel 2 from 7pm to 8pm. You can participate by text (285-6382), calling (287-4230), or email johngonzales@pticom.com.

- Feb. 18, 2009 LIVE - Replays 2/22 and 2/23 @ 7-8pm. Students and PSS discuss Teen HIV & Unintended Pregnancies
- Feb. 25, 2009 LIVE - Replays 3/1 and 3/2 @ 7-8pm. Farmers & NMC CREES discuss "Modeling Resource Conservation Techniques through Innovative Farm Practices"
- Mar. 4, 2009 LIVE - Replays 3/8 and 3/9 @ 7-8pm. NMPASI discusses "Disability Consumers' Services" in celebration of March 2009 Disability Awareness Month
- Mar. 11, 2009 LIVE - Replays 3/15 and 3/16 @ 7-8pm. Retirement Fund Crisis, NMIRF Board Chair Juan T. Guerrero and Administrator Mark Aguon
- Mar. 18, 2009 LIVE - Replays 3/22 and 3/23 @ 7-8pm. PSS Youth Leaders Advisory Panel (#1)
- Mar. 25, 2009 LIVE - Replays 3/29 and 3/30 @ 7-8pm. PSS Youth Leaders Advisory Panel (#2)

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Island Snapshots

VALENTINE'S DAY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Valentine's Day was also a day of celebration for the families and friends of the Christian Bible Felowship - As Perdido Chapter, with a get-together at Shirley's Coffee in Susupe.

AUTISM LAW CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez signs the bill creating the Autism Commission into law Wednesday afternoon.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the following:

One (1) Portable Pavement Striping Machine to the Tinian International Airport:

The equipment should include at a minimum:

1. **FRAME** Electric Welded, reinforced, heavy duty ALL STEEL tubular construction.
2. **WHEELS** Front – 3.00x5; Rear – 4.00x8; pneumatic tires; 5/8 and 1" ball and roller bearings.
3. **MATERIAL CONTAINER** Electrically welded 17 gallon or more, 150 psi steel tank, 10" ASME lid assembly. May also be stainless steel.
4. **POWER** Air cooled engine developing 12 HP or more. Must maintain constant traction up hill and down. Variable speed throttle provided. Electric starter, 15 amp alternator and 12 volt battery optional.
5. **COMPRESSOR** Twin cylinder non-pulsating, 18.5 CFR, 50% air reserve, with unloader. Force feed lubrication to all bearings.
6. **AGITATION** Paddle type.
7. **TRACTION** Must be air-circulated, with new type drive rolls or positive drive.
8. **SPRAY GUNS** Automatic, diaphragm operated, adjustable volume high speed types, square beginnings and endings, uniform application and perfect cross distribution, guns mounted on hinged side delivery on left side unless otherwise specified.
9. **LINE WIDTH** Variable from 3" to 18" but regularly set for two 4" lines, 4" apart unless otherwise specified.
10. **GUIDE PLATES** Air-curtains using exhaust gas to maintain keen-edged line.
11. **CONTROLS** Each gun controlled by separate control valve plus master control valve controls for both guns simultaneously. Each gun is separately regulated by all-brass solvent-resisting regulators.
12. **GUIDE** Adjustable, telescopic guide arm, suitable for chalk line or retracing with a 50" telescoping guide.
13. **CLEANER EQUIPMENT** ½ gallon automatic pressure cleaner mechanism with atomizing head. Flushes fluid lines and cleans spray head assembly of guns.
14. **BRAKE** Manual with easy reach of operator's right hand to keep machine under constant control.
15. **AIR HOSE** Twenty foot (20') air hose for stencil work.
16. **TRAILER** Sturdy riding trailer for operator with platform of no less than 12" x 24", mounted on two 3.00x5 pneumatic tired ball bearing wheels with a track of 32", with standard foot brake.
17. **REQUIRED OPTIONAL ITEMS** Intermittent skip line mechanism, paddle agitator, belt guard, transport trailer, 4" or 6" twin bead dispensers, hand gun assemblies, complete with hoses, right hand edge lining attachment, rotatable side delivery for curb painting, positive chain and sprocket drive with differential, air actuated clutch and hydraulic disc brakes, 18" airport side delivery, stainless steel tank and plumbing, electrical start engine and double tank for two color striping.
18. **DELIVERY** MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

A pre-proposal conference will be scheduled and held only upon request by proposers. However, attendance is not mandatory.

Proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, second floor of the arrival building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, March 13, 2009.**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the Ports Authority to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. For additional information, please contact the Executive Director at 237-6500.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 10, 2009

MAEDA ON THE MOVE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maeda Pacific Corp.'s Guam and Saipan engineers and staff celebrate their yearly get-together at the Coconut Restaurant in Garapan last Feb. 13, 2009. The Guam staff stayed at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. They also visited Saipan project sites like the Slow Sand Filter Rehabilitation Project and the SIA Runway 7/25 Rehabilitation Project. The group is headed by Thomas J. Nielsen, MPC president; Rudy Perez, accounting manager; and Hironori Kikuchi, administrative manager.

TAX CREDIT DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja principal Sr. Susie Capua, RVM, ESFDB board president Edward Maratita Jr., and the students pose with Tanya David as Sr. Susie presents a certificate of appreciation to Bank of Guam-Saipan Branch for their $5000.00 Educational Tax Credit donation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Acting Gov. Timothy Villagomez poses for a group photo with CNMI Autism Society members and advocates after the Autism Commission bill was signed into law Wednesday afternoon.

ANTI-DRUG ADVOCATES CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja DARE/GUTS cultural dance students pose with Miss Marianas Sorene Maratita and school principal Sr. Susie Capua, RVM during the school's fundraiser at PIC. From left: Rhea Costales, ESFDB GUTS Student Body president; president Vannah Hocog, Angelique Perez, Miss Marianas Sorene Maratita, Pauline Taisacan, Randee Jo Barcinas, and Maricel Atalig. Not in photo is PRTI supervisor Edward Maratita, Jr.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-057

"OFFICE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES"
OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF09-058

"GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES"
OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2009 CLOSING DATE: MARCH 16, 2009

To receive the RFP packet, you may mail-in, fax, or email your request to:

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax No.: (670) 664-8080
Email: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118 and must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

Business

Obama throws $75 billion lifeline to homeowners

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—President Barack Obama threw a $75 billion lifeline to millions of Americans on the brink of foreclosure Wednesday, declaring an urgent need for drastic action—not only to save their homes but to keep the housing crisis "from wreaking even greater havoc" on the broader national economy.

The lending plan, a full $25 billion bigger than the administration had been suggesting, aims to prevent as many as 9 million homeowners from being evicted and to stabilize housing markets that are at the center of the ever-worsening U.S. recession.

Government support pledged to mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac is being doubled as well, to $400 billion, as part of an effort to encourage them to refinance loans that are "under water"—those in which homes' market values have sunk below the amount the owners still owe.

"All of us are paying a price for this home mortgage crisis, and all of us will pay an even steeper price if we allow this crisis to continue to deepen," Obama said.

The new president, focusing closely on the economy, in his first month in office, rolled out the housing program one day after he was in Denver to sign his $787 billion emergency stimulus plan to revive the rest of the economy. And his administration is just now going over fresh requests for multiple billions in bailout cash from ailing automakers.

AP

President Barack Obama gestures while speaking at Dobson High School in Mesa, Ariz., Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009, regarding the housing foreclosure problem.

Wall Street has shown little confidence in the new steps, declining sharply on Tuesday before leveling off after Wednesday's announcement. The Dow Jones industrials rose 3 points for the day.

Success of the foreclosure rescue is far from certain.

The administration is loosening refinancing restrictions for many borrowers and providing incentives for lenders in hopes that the two sides will work together to modify loans.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

HP profit slumps 13 pct on weak PC and ink sales

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Hewlett-Packard Co.'s quarterly profit dropped 13 percent, and sales ticked up just 1 percent, as even the technology company's cash-cow printer ink business was hobbled by the recession. The world's top seller of personal computers also cut its 2009 guidance, but it was still in line with Wall Street's expectations. HP shares fell $2.03, or 6 percent, to $32.05 in extended trading, after closing down 26 cents during the regular trading session, before the Palo Alto-based company reported its earnings. Crippled technology spending undermined all but one of HP's major business lines, including PCs and servers. Only HP's services division, which bulked up with its $13.9 billion acquisition of Electronic Data Systems, saw an increase. Services also have been strong for rival IBM Corp., since corporations are trying to save money by outsourcing some of their technology chores.

CBS 4Q profits fall; company cuts dividend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—CBS Corp. said Wednesday its profits fell 52 percent in the fourth quarter because of weaker advertising sales and the broadcasting company slashed its quarterly dividend more than 80 percent. CBS estimated it would save about $450 million in the remainder of 2009 by cutting the dividend starting April 1 to 5 cents a share from a previous 27 cents. While the company said it could pay off $1.4 billion in debt maturing in July 2010 with regular cash flows, it said the step will give it greater flexibility. "When the economy and the credit markets improve, we will revisit the amount of our dividend at that time," Chief Executive Leslie Moonves told analysts on a conference call. Shares in CBS jumped 24 cents, or 4.6 percent, to $5.37 in after-hours trading following the announcement.

GM, Chrysler downfall leave no easy solutions

WASHINGTON (AP)—General Motors Corp. and Chrysler LLC, two venerable titans of American industry, will burn through $17.4 billion in government loans in three months and want billions more to stay alive.

The ink is still drying on their new requests for an additional $21.6 billion, but for President Barack Obama's month-old administration, there are no easy answers.

Give them more money? GM and Chrysler could return seeking more. Let them slip into bankruptcy? Hundreds of thousands of jobs could be lost. Try a government-led bankruptcy? In GM's case, that might cost up to $100 billion.

"There can't be a bottomless pit to this. There aren't the resources to deal with it," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Wednesday as the government began reviewing the automakers' plans.

"We have to get a sustained path to that restructuring to ensure that there isn't a constant necessity for continued government intervention and money from the taxpayers," Gibbs said.

At stake is much more than the future of the PT Cruiser or the Saturn Vue. Jobs at assembly plants, car dealers, parts suppliers and the small businesses that serve them could be at risk in a fatigued economy in which nearly 12 million people are unemployed, including about 600,000 who got pink slips last month.

'US economy will get worse in 2009'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Reserve warned Wednesday that the nation's crippled economy is even worse than thought and predicted it would deteriorate throughout 2009, with no sign that the housing market will stabilize.

The Fed's bleak estimates indicated that unemployment could climb as high as 8.8 percent this year and that the economy would contract for a full calendar year for the first time since 1991.

The central bank's latest projections came hours after a separate report showed that new home construction and applications for future projects both fell to record lows last month.

Still, some economists saw a silver lining in the otherwise dismal housing report: Scaled-back building should reduce the number of unsold homes and contribute to an eventual housing recovery.

The reports raise the stakes for the plan President Barack Obama announced Wednesday to curb foreclosures and ease the broader U.S. housing slump that sent the economy into recession.

The Fed's latest forecast says the unemployment rate will climb to between 8.5 and 8.8 percent this year. The old prediction, issued in mid-November, estimated that the jobless rate would rise to between 7.1 and 7.6 percent.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA/HPO-046

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"INSENTIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF 164 HECTARES (405 ACRES) OF THE CAROLINAS HEIGHTS REGION OF TINIAN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESENTATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HISTORIC PRESEVATION FUND GRANT AND NPS, AS WELL AS HPO.**

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO MR. PEDRO (ROY) C. SABLAN, JR. DIRECTOR OF HPO AT (670) 664-2120/25 OR BY FAX TO: (670) 664-2139 OR E-MAIL TO proysablan@cnmihpo.com NO LATER THAN MARCH 4, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER **AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118** AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **CECILIA T. CELES**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-DCCA/HPO-047

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 13, 2009 • TIME: 2:30 P.M.

"DOCUMENTATION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, ON CAPITOL HILL SAIPAN, AND PREPARATION OF ITS NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES AS A HISTORIC DISTRICT FOR THE OFFICE OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DRIVE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS. **THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED BY THE HISTORIC PRESEVATION FUND GRANT AND NPS, AS WELL AS HPO.**

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/s/ **CECILIA T. CELES**
SECRETARY OF DCCA

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 664-3500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is planning to contract out the operation and maintenance of its two 1.8 mega watts main generators and controls at the Saipan International Airport.

The CPA is inviting all firms with proven work history in operations and maintenance of generators and controls to a meeting at the Generator Building at the Saipan International Airport on Monday, February 23, 2009, at 3:00 p.m. at which time and place, a familiarity of the generators and controls will be conducted. Also, the general intent of what CPA wants in terms of operation and maintenance of the generators and controls will be discussed.

A scope of work will be developed from this meeting and will be the basis for a request for proposal for an operation and maintenance contract.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director February 2, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/01 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM REPLACEMENT
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-09
DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

REQUEST FOR INTEREST

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting the attendance of all interested parties for the Design and Complete Replacement of the Saipan International Airport's Public Address (PA) System on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work entails the supply and installation of a complete PA system at the entire international terminal building of the Saipan International Airport.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held for this project at **2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27, 2009 at the CPA Airport Conference Room**. All prospective proposers are required to attend. All questions prior to the pre-proposal conference must be submitted in writing to Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE, CPA's Executive Director, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to **cpa.admin@pticom.com**. The Friday, February 27, 2009 meeting will be used to familiarize everyone on what needs to be done, what the PA system needs to be to meet both CPA and airline requirements. A scope of work will then be designed to form the basis for all proposals.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

Nation

GOP governors consider turning down stimulus money

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A handful of Republican governors are considering turning down some money from the federal stimulus package, a move opponents say puts conservative ideology ahead of the needs of constituents struggling with record foreclosures and soaring unemployment.

Though none has outright rejected the money available for education, health care and infrastructure, the governors of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alaska, South Carolina and Idaho have all questioned whether the $787 billion bill signed into law this week will even help the economy.

"My concern is there's going to be commitments attached to it that are a mile long," said Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who considered rejecting some of the money but decided Wednesday to accept it. "We need the freedom to pick and choose. And we need the freedom to say 'No thanks.'"

U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., the No. 3 House Democrat, said the governors—some of whom are said to be eyeing White House bids in 2012—are putting their own interests first.

"No community or constituent should be denied recovery assistance due to their governor's political ideology or political aspirations," Clyburn said Wednesday.

In fact, governors who reject some of the stimulus aid may find themselves overridden by their own legislatures because of language Clyburn included in the bill that allows lawmakers to accept the federal money even if their governors object.

He inserted the provision based on the early and vocal opposition to the stimulus plan by South Carolina's Republican governor, Mark Sanford. But it also means governors like Sanford and Louisiana's Bobby Jindal—a GOP up-and-comer often mentioned as a potential 2012 presidential candidate—can burnish their conservative credentials, knowing all the while that their legislatures can accept the money anyway.

Jindal said he, like Perry and Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour, is concerned about strings attached to the money even though his state faces a $1.7 billion budget shortfall next year.

Barbour spokesman Dan Turner, for example, cited concerns that accepting unemployment money from the stimulus package would force states to pay benefits to people who wouldn't meet state requirements to receive them.

In Idaho, Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter said he wasn't interested in stimulus money that would expand programs and boost the state's costs in future years when the federal dollars disappear—a worry also cited by Jindal and Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin.

A spokesman said Sanford, the new head of the Republican Governors Association, is looking at the stimulus bill to figure out how much of it he can control.

Holder: US is a nation of cowards on racial matters

WASHINGTON (AP)—Eric Holder, the nation's first black attorney general, said Wednesday the United States was "a nation of cowards" on matters of race, with most Americans avoiding candid discussions of racial issues. In a speech to Justice Department employees marking Black History Month, Holder said the workplace is largely integrated but Americans still self-segregate on the weekends and in their private lives.

"Though this nation has proudly thought of itself as an ethnic melting pot, in things racial we have always been and I believe continue to be, in too many ways, essentially a nation of cowards," Holder said.

Race issues continue to be a topic of political discussion, but "we, as average Americans, simply do not talk enough with each other about race."

Holder's speech echoed President Barack Obama's landmark address last year on race relations during the hotly contested Democratic primaries, when the then-candidate urged the nation to break "a racial stalemate we've been stuck in for years" and bemoaned the "chasm of misunderstanding that exists between the races." Obama delivered the speech to try to distance himself from the angry rhetoric of his former pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright.

Owner now says she never gave slain chimp Xanax

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—As authorities considered criminal charges, the woman whose 200-pound domesticated chimpanzee went berserk and mauled a friend backtracked Wednesday on whether she gave the animal the anti-anxiety drug Xanax. Sandra Herold told The Associated Press on Wednesday that she never gave the drug to her 14-year-old chimp, Travis, who was shot dead by Stamford police Monday after he grievously wounded Herold's friend Charla Nash.

However, Herold said in an interview aired Wednesday morning on NBC's "Today" show that she gave Travis the drug in some tea less than five minutes before he attacked Nash—she even showed a reporter the mug. Police have said Herold told them that she gave Travis Xanax that had not been prescribed for him earlier on Monday to calm him because he was agitated.

In humans, Xanax can lead to aggression in people who are unstable to begin with, said Dr. Emil Coccaro, chief of psychiatry at the University of Chicago Medical Center.

"Xanax could have made him worse," if human studies are any indication, Coccaro said.

The chimpanzee's rampage forced Herold to stab her beloved pet with a butcher knife and pound him with a shovel.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB09-GOV-057

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **ENCLOSURES OF ELECTRICAL CONTROL PANELS FOR WATER WELLS** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana.

Islands A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond. If a bid bond is submitted, it must be accompanied by an Insurers Clearance Certificate (ICC) issued by the Department of Commerce.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hazard Mitigation Program and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from both OIA and FEMA.

The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds with an ICC clearance. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:
- Construct Building Enclosures for the Electrical Control Panel of each Water Well located in the various sites of Saipan.
- Necessary relocation of power drop line/weather head connection into the building enclosure.
- Installation and provision of new control panels.
- Installation of underground conduits from the new control panel to the well.
- Installation of a new chain link fence around the perimeter.
- Where directed, construction of an exterior concrete pad, extending one foot beyond the perimeter fence.

A non-refundable payment of $100 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **February 13, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **February 27, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit is not scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and address to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax to (670) 664-2279, no later than 4:30 on **February 27, 2009.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to local bidders per Article 7 of the CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations.

Sealed bids must be marked "IFB09-GOV-057". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time **March 16, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facisimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 16, 2009**, and must be received no later than **March 25, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 26, 2009**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **March 16, 2009**.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Lieutenant Governor and Contracting Officer

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RESTROOM REPAIRS AND WATER PUMP IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-002-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for general improvements made to all restrooms at the international terminal buildings and upgrades to the water pump system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of, but are not limited to, restroom door and fixture replacements and replacement of the water pump motor and controls.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

Clinton works to boost US ties to Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton moved Wednesday to boost U.S. ties with the world's most populous Muslim nation and its neighbors, pledging a new American willingness to work with and listen to Indonesia and the rest of Southeast Asia. Her message was received warmly by officials in Jakarta, the childhood home of President Barack Obama, although small and scattered protests were held in several cities, with some Islamic hard-liners setting tires on fire and others throwing shoes at caricatures of Clinton. She said her choice of Asia for her first overseas trip as Obama's top diplomat was "no accident" and a sign of the new administration's desire for broader and deeper relations with the continent on regional and global issues. Clinton, who arrived from a stop in Japan and will head Thursday to South Korea and China, was particularly effusive about Indonesia, which she said deserved praise for its hard-won multiethnic democracy and efforts to fight terrorism while respecting human rights.

NKorea: Missile, nuclear programs pose no threats

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Thursday its missile and nuclear programs pose no threat, ahead of a visit by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to South Korea for talks expected to focus on the communist country. North Korea's military accused South Korea of misusing what it called "nonexistent nuclear and missile threats" as a pretext to invade, and renewed a warning that its troops are in an "all-out confrontational posture" against Seoul. The statement from the North Korean military's general staff, carried by official the Korean Central News Agency, came as the regime is believed to be gearing up to test-fire a long-range missile and Clinton is scheduled to arrive in Seoul later Thursday for meetings expected to tackle the missile issue.

Philippine veterans told to apply for US benefits

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A $198 million U.S. compensation package for Filipino World War II veterans who fought under the American flag against Japanese forces shows America's "great respect" for their bravery and service, the U.S. Embassy said Wednesday. For over 60 years, the veterans have been campaigning for equal treatment of U.S. and Filipino service members who fought alongside each other to defend the Philippines, then a U.S. colony. The compensation package is part of the $787 billion economic stimulus measure signed into law Tuesday by President Barack Obama. The U.S. Embassy in Manila said it will start accepting applications next week for lump-sum payments of $15,000 for veterans who have become U.S. citizens and $9,000 for non-U.S. citizens. Applications must be submitted by Feb. 16, 2010, and claims by spouses, widows or children of veterans will not be accepted, it said.

Australia's child survivors struggle to cope

BUXTON, Australia (AP)—The crayon colors on the page were bright—orange, red, sunny yellow. But the drawings were as dark as the blackened remains of the landscape near the tiny Australian schoolhouse.

Inside, 9-year-old Phillip Watt pressed a finger to each image and remembered what he saw on that day when his town, his house, his beloved bicycle were destroyed in Australia's deadliest wildfires. Here was the family car racing away from the blaze. There were the red and orange flames chewing up the gum trees.

He pointed to a creature lying on the road. "That's a cow," he said steadily. "A dead cow."

Phillip's classroom was plastered with pictures like these—each scribble and swirl a therapeutic purging of a child's memory from the disastrous day that took at least 201 lives and destroyed more than 1,800 homes in southeastern Australia.

The psychological toll on these boys and girls will be formidable, experts say, similar to the reactions children had following major traumas such as Hurricane Katrina, 9/11 and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

"Fire, like waves in water, obeys no rules," said Dr. Lynne Rubin, a founding member of the New York Disaster Counseling Coalition, which helped children after the 9/11 attacks. That, she said, "is particularly terrifying to kids."

Children's reactions range from sleeplessness to nightmares to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Inside the small schoolhouse in Buxton, on the outskirts of the devastated village of Marysville, Phillip spoke longingly of his lost bike, his old bed, his Wii.

"Marysville was a good town and all of Marysville's gone," he said. "And now we have to stay at our Nan and Pop's—and they're always grumpy."

Younger children can't often grasp the full scope of a tragedy. Instead, they fixate on a toy or object that was lost, said Ric Pawsey, director of therapeutic services at Berry Street Victoria, a child welfare organization.

The incinerated teddy bear or the blanket turned to ash were not just playthings but sources of comfort, anchors to a child's life before the tragedy, he said. "If they lose key pieces, they become very thrown by that."

The Buxton students' drawings illustrate the intense trauma of that day. A blue bucket in one picture represented the water a boy threw on his family's property as he tried to save it from the flames.

"He's in grade five and he has to protect his house," teacher Lorraine Whitehead said, staring first at the image then down at the goosebumps on her arms. "It's hard for adults to understand, let alone kids."

The intensity of fires makes the emotional effects more acute, said Australian Psychological Society president Bob Montgomery.

China warns Tibet clergy against demonstrations

BEIJING (AP)—A Communist Party official in Tibet has warned Buddhist clergy against political activity in the run-up to the first anniversary of last year's massive anti-government protests.

The warning from Lobsang Gyaincain, published in the official Tibet Daily on Thursday, followed a reported crackdown earlier this week on Tibetan protesters in Lithang, a volatile traditionally Tibetan region of Sichuan province. Those protesters had praised the exiled Dalai Lama and called on Tibetans to abstain from celebrations of the Tibetan new year to mark the anniversary of the demonstrations.

Lobsang Gyaincain, who is a member of the standing committee of the regional Communist Party, also demanded that monks and nuns recognize what he called the "reactionary nature" of the Dalai Lama clique, as well as plots to use temples and clergy to carry out "infiltration and disturbances," Tibet Daily reported.

Clergy must "refuse to take part in activities aimed at splitting the motherland, and not take part in illegal marches, demonstrations and other activities that disrupt social order," it quoted Lobsang Gyaincain as telling a meeting of clergy on Wednesday.

The official also heads the regional party committee's United Front Work Department, which is in charge of directly supervising Buddhist temples and clergy.

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS/UPGRADE PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-003-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements and upgrades to the drainage system at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs and diversion of the roof drainage system at the arrival, departure and corridors.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
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Executive Director/Contracting Officer
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/s/ Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT COMMUTER TERMINAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-004-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for improvements to the Commuter Terminal located at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. These improvements consist of roof repairs, renovations to the interior of the terminal and limited renovations to the exterior to the terminal.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
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Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: February 17, 2009

World

Pope tells Nancy Pelosi life must be protected

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI received Nancy Pelosi, one of the most prominent abortion rights politicians in America, and told her Wednesday that Catholic politicians have a duty to protect life "at all stages of its development." The U.S. House speaker, a Catholic, was the first top Democrat to meet with Benedict since the election of Barack Obama, who won a majority of the U.S. Catholic vote despite differences with the Vatican on abortion.

On his fourth day in office last month, Obama ended a ban on funds for international groups that perform abortions or provide information on the option—a sharp policy change from former President George W. Bush's Republican administration.

The Vatican's attempts to keep the Pelosi visit low-profile displayed its obvious unease with the new U.S. administration. Benedict and Bush had found common ground in opposing abortion, an issue that drew them together despite their differences over the war in Iraq.

Wednesday's meeting, in a small room off a Vatican auditorium after the pope's weekly public audience, was closed to reporters and photographers.

The Vatican also said—contrary to its usual policy when the pope meets world leaders—that it was not issuing either a photo or video of the encounter, claiming the meeting was private.

A short statement from the Vatican said the pope "briefly greeted" Pelosi and did not mention any other subject they may have discussed besides abortion.

In their 15-minute meeting, the Vatican said Benedict spoke of the church's teaching "on the dignity of human life from conception to natural death." That is an expression often used by the pope when expressing opposition to abortion.

AP

U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, left, listens to Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi at the Villa Madama residence, in Rome, Tuesday Feb. 17, 2009.

Benedict said all Catholics—especially legislators, jurists and political leaders—should work to create "a just system of laws capable of protecting human life at all stages of its development," the Vatican said.

Pelosi, for her part, did not even mention the pope's allusion to abortion.

In a statement issued by her office, Pelosi said it was with "great joy" that she and her husband Paul met with Benedict.

"In our conversation, I had the opportunity to praise the Church's leadership in fighting poverty, hunger and global warming, as well as the Holy Father's dedication to religious freedom and his upcoming trip and message to Israel," Pelosi said.

"I was proud to show His Holiness a photograph of my family's papal visit in the 1950s, as well as a recent picture of our children and grandchildren," said the California congresswoman, who has often expressed pride in her religious heritage.

Pelosi is the third person in line in U.S. government, after Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden.

The treatment of Pelosi echoed the Vatican's earlier treatment of Geraldine Ferraro, a Catholic who was the Democratic vice presidential candidate in 1984. The Vatican did not disguise its irritation at Ferraro's position that she opposed abortion but also opposed outlawing it.

Zimbabwe to pay soldiers, teachers in US dollars

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe tried to combat the world's highest inflation by widening the use of foreign currency Wednesday—the first act of a coalition government that gave the longtime opposition control of much economic policy.

Finance Minister Tendai Biti, a veteran opposition leader, told reporters that some 130,000 soldiers, teachers, civil servants and other government workers will now receive payment in U.S. dollars instead of local currency. The $100 monthly salary will be a raise for most government employees, who had seen their buying power drop to the equivalent of $30 a month because of inflation.

Biti also scrapped licenses required for shops doing business in foreign currency. The change will allow more merchants to legally trade in dollars and South African rand.

But even as the new coalition took its first steps, a judge ordered the opposition's nominee for deputy agriculture minister jailed for at least two more weeks pending trial on terrorism charges.

UN accused of failing to protect Congo civilians

DUNGU, Congo (AP)—Early in the morning the warnings came: Rebels notorious for vicious attacks on civilians were advancing on this eastern Congolese town of thatched roof huts along the winding Kibali River.

Aid workers alerted nearby U.N. peacekeepers, but for hours no one came.

So tens of thousands of townspeople fled—on foot, on bicycles, on motorcycles, anything to escape. Some did not get out on time and were slaughtered on the spot. Others were abducted and killed in the bush.

The failure to protect the people of Dungu and other towns from attack by the Lord's Resistance Army is a sign of the collapse of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in this sprawling Central African nation.

More than 1,500 civilians have been slaughtered since September, many hacked and clubbed to death in unspeakably brutal attacks, according to humanitarian groups. Aid workers and others say the U.N. force and Congolese military received almost daily alerts as the death toll mounted and the rebel offensives multiplied.

Critics say the 17,000-member U.N. mission has foundered despite being the largest and most expensive in the world—and with the strongest mandate ever issued to U.N. troops to use force to protect civilians.

U.N. officials say they simply do not have enough boots on the ground to perform effectively in Congo, a country more than twice the size of California and Texas combined, but with only 300 miles of paved roads.

With a population of more than 58 million, there is only about one peacekeeper for every 3,400 people.

During a tour last week of towns laid waste by the rebels in the remote Haut-Uele region, the top U.N. diplomat for humanitarian aid, John Holmes, said the peacekeepers have been given an impossible task.

"Can we do better? Yes. The fact that I am here is an admission that we need to do a lot more—more resources, more capacity on the ground, better security," Holmes told The Associated Press.

"In an area like this, where attacks are coming from all directions, it's impossible to protect every civilian. Even the big towns aren't particularly safe," he said.

Israel says no cease-fire until soldier comes home

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel declared Wednesday that it will not open the Gaza Strip's blockaded borders until Hamas militants free a captured Israeli soldier, dealing a blow to Egyptian efforts to broker a long-term cease-fire.

The decision was condemned by Hamas, which is desperate for border crossings to be opened in order to start repairing destruction from Israel's military offensive in the coastal territory last month.

In parallel, the prime minister of the rival Palestinian government in the West Bank announced plans to stream reconstruction money directly to the people of Gaza. That would effectively sideline the Hamas administration in Gaza.

Gaza's borders have been sealed by Israel and Egypt since the Islamic militants of Hamas violently seized control of the territory nearly two years ago, driving out supporters of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Israel allows only vital humanitarian supplies to enter, and the Security Cabinet decided that closure will stay in place until Sgt. Gilad Schalit is released. The 11-member body unanimously endorsed the condition, which was set out by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert this week.

WORLD BRIEFS

Egypt frees dissident from prison after 3 years

CAIRO (AP)—A leading Egyptian dissident, Ayman Nour, who was jailed after challenging the country's longtime president in the 2005 elections, was unexpectedly freed Wednesday after years of pressure from the United States. Nour's jailing has troubled Egyptian-U.S. relations for more than three years, and his sudden release may be a gesture to improve ties with President Barack Obama's new administration. Nour told The Associated Press from his Cairo home that he learned he was going to be freed only when a car arrived at the prison to take him home. "Why they did this is unknown," he said. "I am coming out with an open heart and am ready to work and nothing has changed. A lot of things have been put on hold over the past years. ... I am ready to make a change in this country," he told the AP in a telephone interview. He later told reporters gathered at his home: "I will definitely resume my political activity."

UK court: Radical preacher can be deported from UK

LONDON (AP)—An extremist Muslim preacher once called a key operative for Osama bin Laden in Europe can be deported to Jordan despite fears he could face torture there, Britain's highest court ruled on Wednesday. Abu Qatada, a Palestinian-Jordanian, arrived in Britain in 1993. He and his family were given residency rights in Britain but in 2002 he was jailed and held for three years after British authorities accused him of advising militants and raising money for terror attacks. In 2005, he was released but re-arrested pending his deportation to Jordan where, in his absence, he had been sentenced to life for conspiracy to commit terrorist activities. Britain's lower courts said he couldn't be deported because of his fears he would likely be tortured but the Law Lords ruled there was no proof of a real risk to Qatada.

1 killed in unrest on French island Guadeloupe

BASSE-TERRE, Guadeloupe (AP)—A man was shot dead as he drove during the night during riots and protests over the high cost of living, officials said Wednesday—the first fatality in a nearly month-old strike that has hammered this French Caribbean island's tourist industry and paralyzed daily life. French Prime Minister Francois Fillon's office in Paris condemned the slaying and said the circumstances were being investigated. He urged all involved to "stop the violence that is traumatizing all of Guadeloupe." More than 2,000 people in Martinique, a nearby French island, marched through the capital Fort-de-France Wednesday in honor of the man killed in Guadeloupe. Jacques Bino, a tax agent and union member, was fatally shot in a housing project in Pointe-a-Pitre as he drove home after attending a Tuesday night meeting with the LKP Collective, which organized the strike, said Nicolas Desforges, the top appointed official on the island.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Chunk of metal crashes through roof near NJ man

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—A note to someone in northern New Jersey: Check what you're putting through your wood chipper. Al Smith was forklifting a sofa in his moving company's warehouse in Jersey City on Wednesday morning when he heard a sound he thought was a bomb. A chunk of hot metal the size of a brick came crashing through the roof just steps from him. It splintered a wooden beam and crashed into a shelf. The Federal Aviation Administration looked at the object and determined it wasn't from an airplane. Mayor Jerramiah Healy said the cast iron object came from a nearby wood chipper. Smith was not hurt but said he was shaken up. He feels so lucky it missed him that his next step was to buy a lottery ticket.

Gas saver? Pot makes gas gauge read half full

SANDY, Utah (AP)—A stash of grass can take the place of a lot of gas, but it won't do anything for mileage. A Utah man took his newly acquired used SUV to a mechanic to find out why the gas gauge always read half-full. The mechanic in Sandy looked inside the gas tank and found about 35 pounds of marijuana in plastic-wrap packages that filled about half of the tank's volume. Police estimate the pot is worth about $35,000. The Nissan Armada has had several different owners and was once a rental car. Sandy police are trying to figure out who stashed the pot but say the current owner is not a suspect. Investigators in the town south of Salt Lake City say the drug packs could have been in the tank for months.

Vets use CT scan, find kangaroo's abscessed tooth

ALLENTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Officials at the Lehigh Valley Zoo turned to some high-tech equipment to find out what was causing a kangaroo to feel a little down in the mouth. Veterinarians using a CT scan Tuesday night at AnimalScan in Easton found an abscessed tooth in the right lower jaw of Sybil, a 13-year-old red kangaroo. Doctors gave Sybil pain medication and antibiotics and said the next step would be to schedule oral surgery. The kangaroo has already lost several teeth over the years. The veterinarians say most of the animals they treat are dogs and cats but they do get some exotic cases.

Store manager arrested for theft that he reported

METAIRIE, La. (AP)—Deputies said they didn't have to look far to find the person who stole thousands of dollars worth of heating and air conditioning equipment. They say the thief was right behind the counter. According to a Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office arrest report, a 44-year-old man, who manages an appliance part store, may have made off with about $203,000 worth of inventory. On Jan. 9, the manager filed a theft report indicating that 70 rolls of 50-foot copper sheets were missing from his inventory. The report said that further investigation by the company revealed that the manager had been entering the store after hours using his personal alarm code. Officials said the manager later confessed to selling the equipment and pocketing up to $50,000 in cash on the deals.

Police find more than 80 cats in soiled Okla. home

EL RENO, Okla. (AP)—Police officers responding to a domestic disturbance call found more than 80 cats and three dogs in an El Reno house soiled with animal fur, feces and urine. Officer Christina Penick said in a police report that there was an overwhelming smell of ammonia from cat urine, and cats were in the cabinets, on tables and running around the floor. Code enforcement officers condemned the house. The family was allowed to keep four cats and they promised to give away the dogs. They were not cited. The animals appeared to be well-fed. Most of the cats will be put up for adoption.

Man allegedly steals Bingo cash, punches woman

SMYRNA, Del. (AP)—Delaware State Police arrested a 27-year-old man who allegedly punched a woman while robbing a senior center on bingo night. Police said the 27-year-old and an accomplice entered the center about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday. They said the first man grabbed $1,200 in bingo money and destroyed a phone so that no one could call police. Authorities said the man then punched a 75-year-old woman in the head after she tried to fight with him. A Newark man got involved and chased both suspects out of the center. Police said the man then threatened the Newark man with a large stick and dropped $715 while fleeing the center. A police officer arrested the 27-year-old man after a short chase but the accomplice remains at large.

Suspect trips over his pants while fleeing police

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—Authorities said a burglary suspect was literally caught with his pants down while trying to run away. A deputy responded to an alarm at a convenient store early Tuesday morning and reported seeing a 37-year-old man exiting through a smashed-out front door while carrying several packs of cigarettes. Deputies said the man tried to flee, but the handfuls of cigarettes prevented him from holding up his pants, which fell down and tripped him before he could make it out of the parking lot. The man was charged with criminal mischief, burglary, theft and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was being held on $12,000 bail.

Teed off man uses golf club in clash over manners

FALMOUTH, Mass. (AP)—A man faces assault charges after allegedly striking another man with a golf club in an argument over manners. Police told the Cape Cod Times that a 50-year-old man leaving a gas station in town on Monday morning held the door open for a 38-year-old man. Police said the 38-year-old man did not thank the other man, who responded by uttering a sarcastic "thank you." The two men got into an argument before the 38-year-old went to his car to get a golf club, which he allegedly used to strike the victim several times in the stomach and legs. Police said the victim suffered minor injuries. The 38-year-old man pleaded not guilty to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon in Falmouth District Court on Tuesday and was ordered to stay away from the other man.

Police: Man lets boy drive for a 'bonding moment'

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP)—Police in southwest Florida arrested a man they say let his 8-year-old son drive a van. Police in Bradenton arrested 34-year-old Mark A. Belanger just before midnight Sunday on charges of child abuse and permitting an unlicensed driver to drive. A police report said the boy hit two trees and nearly hit two people in a parking lot. Belanger told police he'd taken Xanax, used to treat anxiety and panic attacks, and was "feeling woozy and didn't want to drive." He said he thought letting his son drive would be a "bonding moment." The boy told police his father took "liquid medicine" to feel better, pointing to an empty whiskey bottle in the vehicle. Belanger remained in jail Wednesday on a $10,120 bond. Jail records did not show if he has an attorney.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-008

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals for the **Shipper / Receiver to coordinate the receiving, shipment / freight handling of instructional materials, supplies and other needs from US mainland, Hawaii and territories vendors for hte CNMI State Public School System (PSS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-008" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 11, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-008, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will be a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 2:00 p.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License.

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public Shool System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

Invitation For Bid
IFB 09-008

The Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the purchase, delivery, installation, and assembly of **Tables and Chairs for Head Start Resources and Training Centers for Tinian, Chalan Kanoa and Tanapag Centers**. Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "IFB 09-008" containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office, no later than **March 09, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "IFB 09-008" CONFIDENTIAL – Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and three (3)-copies). Any bid after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: ***babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.***

The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all bids, in whole or in part, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All bids shall become the property of the CNMI Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, Procurement & Supply Officer

Science & Technology

8 technology etiquette tips for job-seekers

BOSTON (AP)—If there's any small solace when starting a job search in this recession, it's the proliferation of digital technology to help you re-enter the working world.

Web sites like Indeed.com and LinkedIn.com have multiplied the number of job openings you can track and the professional contacts you can make. E-mail and smart phones make it easier to pitch yourself and set up appointments.

But think twice before picking up that BlackBerry and thumb-typing a message to the hiring manager whose e-mail address you so slyly uncovered online. In the end, landing the right job hinges on old-world skills.

"The electronic piece usually just gets your foot in the door," said Dave Willmer, executive director of Robert Half Technology, a tech industry recruiting division of Menlo Park, Calif.-based staffing consultant Robert Half International.

"But you still have to present yourself well face-to-face in an interview, and you have to have good references," he said. "I think some job candidates lose sight of that because of all the technology options and capabilities that get your name out there."

Willmer and Kate Wendleton, president of The Five O'Clock Club, a New York-based career counseling company, advise that job seekers—especially the young and tech-savvy—frequently misuse electronic gadgets and the Web and run roughshod over professional etiquette.

Some of their advice:

Avoid E-Mail Blasts

Resist the temptation to respond to each online job listing in your field, and focus on those that fit the best. Only about 6 percent of jobs are filled by candidates recruited through advertisements, said Wendleton, whose firm also conducts career research. If you can use personal contacts to learn about an opening that's not widely publicized, your chances of landing the job increase because you've got fewer rivals.

Instead of blast e-mailing, use the Web to research potential employers and put yourself in position to recite key facts about that company should you land an interview.

"Too many people are sitting there all day hitting that send button on their computer, answering ads, answering ads," Wendleton said.

Embrace Snail Mail

In your first contact with a prospective employer, you're unlikely to stand out if you join the legions of job seekers sending 'hire me' pitches via e-mail with resumes attached. E-mails also are too easy for a hiring manager to delete. With snail mail, you control the appearance of your carefully crafted cover letter and resume. With e-mail, the user's machine can control settings for fonts and spacing. And managers can be wary of opening attached resumes for fear of unleashing a computer virus.

Get Personal

If you resort to e-mail pitches, make them personal. If you're introducing yourself to a hiring manager you've identified via a professional colleague, type that colleague's name in the e-mail's subject line and succinctly explain the link (e.g. "John Doe referred me") so the manager is less likely to hit delete.

Avoid Follow-Up Foibles

If you land an interview, pay close attention if the hiring manager specifies how to make any follow-up contacts. E-mail can be a good option because of its speed; if you send a follow-up note via snail mail, it may arrive too late in the hiring process to make a difference. If the hiring manager is OK with e-mail, send a message that addresses any unanswered questions from the interview and state that you're also mailing a hardcopy. In the snail mail message, reference that you also sent the e-mail.

Whatever you do, don't follow up on an interview with an e-mail sent via a handheld gadget—there's too great a chance you'll thumb-type a typo-ridden message. Only use handhelds to send brief, timely e-mails confirming an appointment or advising you're running late for a meeting. Don't type without regard to grammar and capitalization, and resist including smiley faces or other emoticons in electronic messages. "There is no circumstance where that is appropriate," Wendleton said.

Observe boundaries:

Even if you managed to track down a hiring manager's cell phone number, don't call it unless given permission. "Cell phones are considered private," Wendleton said.

Stick With Land Lines

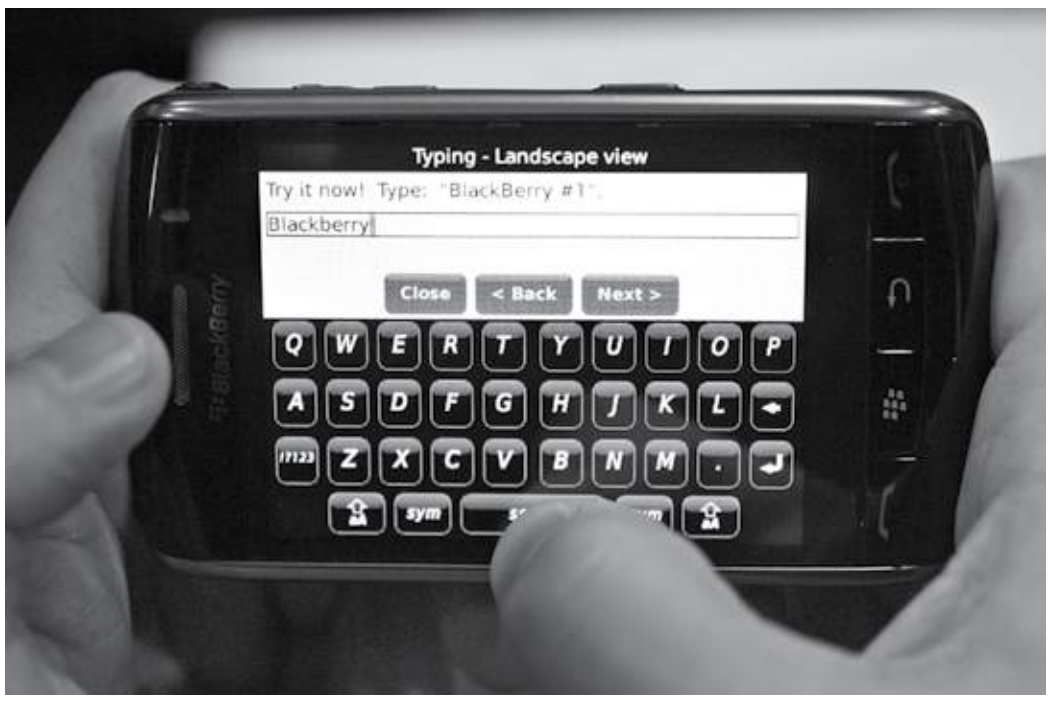
For any phone contact with a prospective employer, try to use a land line. With cell phones, there's too great a risk that you'll get a spotty connection, lose it altogether, or end up with excessive background noise if you're in a public place. If you lack a land line, call from a quiet place like a hotel lobby. Have a pen and pad ready so you can jot down information.

Network The Smart Way

If you identify a hiring manager or other professional you'd like to connect with on an online networking site, don't merely send an electronic invitation without explaining why you want to get in touch. An out-of-the-blue request will likely be ignored. "Write something like, "I was intrigued by your LinkedIn posting. I see you have 10 years of international experience. I too have 10 years of international experience,"" Wendleton said.

Manage Your Digital Footprint

Hiring managers can be expected to go beyond your resume and references, and perform a background check online. So be judicious about what you post on social networking sites such as Facebook, and limit access to friends and family if it's something you wouldn't want an employer to see. Likewise, think before posting political opinions or personal information in blogs or other online forums. Consider posting under a pseudonym rather than your name. "As a job candidate, I would encourage people to be conservative," said Willmer. "Assume that anybody has access to anything."



AP

In this Nov. 21, 2008 file photo, a customer types on a BlackBerry Storm smartphone at Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif., Friday, Nov. 21, 2008. While e-mail and smart phones make it easier to pitch yourself and set up appointments, think twice before picking up that BlackBerry and thumb-typing a message to the hiring manager whose e-mail address you so slyly uncovered online. In the end, landing the right job hinges on old-world skills.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2009, The Washington Post

Q: Sometimes my iPod Touch will find a wireless network called "Free Public WiFi" but then can't connect to the Internet. What's up with that?

A: This non-working network is the unplanned product of an old, poorly thought-out setting in Windows XP. As first released, that operating system would try way too hard to rejoin old wireless networks: Under the right circumstances, an XP computer would create its own "ad hoc" network, named after the last network it had reached.

At some point years ago, somebody created a wireless network named "Free Public WiFi." That network has been bouncing across the airwaves ever since, as XP users have clicked on that promising name and caused their own machines to broadcast the same network ID to other computers.

Microsoft released a patch for this problem in 2007, but it doesn't seem to have been issued as an automatic update—two XP laptops showed no signs of this fix. You can get your own copy at support.microsoft.com/kb/917021.

You can also turn off the "ad hoc" option yourself. Click the wireless-networking icon at the bottom right of your screen to check your WiFi status; in the status window, click the Properties button. In the Properties window, click the Wireless Networks tab, then click the Advanced button. And in the Advanced window, click the button next to "Access point (infrastructure) networks only."

■■■

Q: What color iPod Nano should I get?

A: This column isn't the place for fashion advice. But two of Apple's nine color choices do offer a functional advantage: The silver and black models include a black click-wheel dial. This should hide dirt much better than the usual white dial, which has turned to a shade of gray on my iPod.

TECH BYTES

Skype to be included on some Nokia smart phones

NEW YORK (AP)—Skype's software for making free and cheap phone calls over the Internet will be built in to some Nokia Corp. smart phones. In a move announced this week at the Mobile World Congress trade show in Barcelona, the companies said Skype will be initially integrated with Nokia's Nseries devices, which run on Nokia's Symbian S60 operating system. The integration will start with the N97, which will be released in June. The built-in Skype application will be integrated with the phone's address book, so users can see when their Skype contacts are available and make free voice calls or send instant messages to them.

Nintendo's handheld game player due April 5 in US

NEW YORK (AP)—Nintendo Co. will launch the latest version of its portable video game system in the United States on April 5, adding two digital cameras and the ability to play with sound recordings. The DSi, which is already available in Nintendo's home country of Japan, will cost $170 and come in two colors, black and blue. This is the third iteration of the world's most popular handheld gaming system. The DS Lite, its predecessor, costs $130. The new handheld is slimmer than the DS Lite, sports bigger screens and includes two digital cameras—one facing outward and one pointing at the user when the device is flipped open. Using the DSi, players can manipulate photos, mix images and share them with friends.

New service unblocks blocked Caller ID

NEW YORK (AP)—A service launched this week unblocks Caller ID information that the caller thinks is blocked, causing concern among those who help abused women. TrapCall.com lets people rig some AT&T Inc. and T-Mobile USA phones so that if a call comes in with blocked Caller ID and is rejected, it rings again, this time displaying the number of the caller. The basic service if free. The Web site charges for plans with more advanced services, like call recording and Caller ID with name. The Web site said the service can be useful for people who get harassing phone calls.

Tiny search engine alleges Google abuses its power

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A would-be challenger to Google Inc. said Tuesday it is suing the Internet search leader for alleged abuses that include illegally rigging its prices to thwart potential competitive threats. In a 38-page page complaint, TradeComet.com LLC accused Google of manipulating its system for setting ad rates to make it too expensive for a specialty search engine called SourceTool to promote itself within Google's vast online marketing network. In a press release, TradeComet said it filed its antitrust lawsuit in a New York federal court. Google said it hadn't reviewed the allegations as of late Tuesday, but the Mountain View-based company reiterated its belief that there are plenty of other online advertising options, including networks run by rivals Yahoo Inc. and Microsoft Corp.

Life & Style

NY Post cartoon of dead chimpanzee stirs outrage

NEW YORK (AP)—A New York Post cartoon that some have interpreted as comparing President Barack Obama to a violent chimpanzee gunned down by police drew outrage Wednesday from civil rights leaders and elected officials who said it echoed racist stereotypes of blacks as monkeys.

The cartoon in Wednesday's Post by Sean Delonas shows two police officers, one with a smoking gun, standing over the body of a bullet-riddled chimp. The caption reads: "They'll have to find someone else to write the next stimulus bill."

The cartoon refers to a chimpanzee named Travis who was killed Monday by police in Stamford, Conn., after it mauled a friend of its owner.

Some critics called the cartoon racist and said it trivialized a tragedy in which a woman was disfigured and a chimpanzee killed. Others said the cartoon suggests that Obama should be assassinated. Many urged a boycott of the Post and the companies that advertise in it.

"How could the Post let this cartoon pass as satire?" said Barbara Ciara, president of the National Association of Black Journalists. "To compare the nation's first African-American commander in chief to a dead chimpanzee is nothing short of racist drivel."

State Sen. Eric Adams called it a "throwback to the days" when black men were lynched.

The Rev. Al Sharpton called the cartoon "troubling at best given the historic racist attacks of African-Americans as being synonymous with monkeys."

The cartoon set off a furious response against the Post. Its phones rang all day with angry callers. Protesters picketed the tabloid's Manhattan offices, demanding an apology and a boycott and chanting "shut the Post down. Col Allan, editor-in-chief of the Post, defended the work.

"The cartoon is a clear parody of a current news event, to wit the shooting of a violent chimpanzee in Connecticut," Allan said in a statement. "It broadly mocks Washington's efforts to revive the economy. Again, Al Sharpton reveals himself as nothing more than a publicity opportunist."

The cartoon drew hundreds of comments on the Internet including at the liberal Huffington Post, where columnist Sam Stein wrote: "At its most benign, the cartoon suggests that the stimulus bill was so bad, monkeys may as well have written it. Most provocatively, it compares the president to a rabid chimp."

This cartoon image provided by the New York Post appeared in the Post's Page Six Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009. AP

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs declined comment.

"I have not seen the cartoon," he told reporters aboard Air Force One as Obama returned to Washington from Arizona, where he announced his plan to deal with the foreclosure crisis. "But I don't think it's altogether newsworthy reading the New York Post."

It is not the first time that Delonas, the longtime cartoonist for the Post's Page Six, has raised eyebrows with a heavy-handed caricature.

An earlier Delonas cartoon made fun of Paul McCartney's ex-wife Heather Mills for having only one leg, and another compared gay people seeking marriage licenses to sheep lovers. In a cartoon last month, an enormous Jessica Simpson dumps boyfriend Tony Romo for Ronald McDonald.

Dolly Parton shut out of 'Hannah Montana' movie

OXON HILL, Md. (AP)—It's all over the Internet that Dolly Parton will be in the upcoming "Hannah Montana" movie, but Parton says she didn't make the cut.

"I'm not in the movie," she said. "I wish I had been."

According to Parton, producers had asked her early on if she would revisit her recurring TV role as Aunt Dolly in the film, due out April 10, starring teen sensation Miley Cyrus.

Parton

"I said I would love to! I assumed that they were gonna be writing me a part," she said in a recent interview.

But her character was not included in the script.

Even though she's disappointed, Parton said little kids still come up to her all the time, saying "Hi, Aunt Dolly!" The 63-year-old singer called doing the TV show "probably the best move" she's ever made, since it introduced her to an entire new generation.

Parton is now blogging on her Web site and is active on her Facebook and MySpace pages.

"I feel like I came from the dark ages into the light ages. When I first started out, we didn't even have electricity," she said. "I was singing on TV before we even owned one. Now here I am in this high tech world. I don't even know half of what the stuff means. But I'm on it."

Parton grew up in rural East Tennessee, the fourth of twelve children. While some stars run as far away from home as possible, Parton has made it a point to embrace the community she grew up in.

"There is a lot to be said about people that hang on with dear life to the things that are dear to them. And I take the Smoky Mountains wherever I go."

She's promoting the 75th anniversary of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park this year, and has written a musical at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., called "Sha-Kon-O-Hey!," the Cherokee word meaning "Land of Blue Smoke."

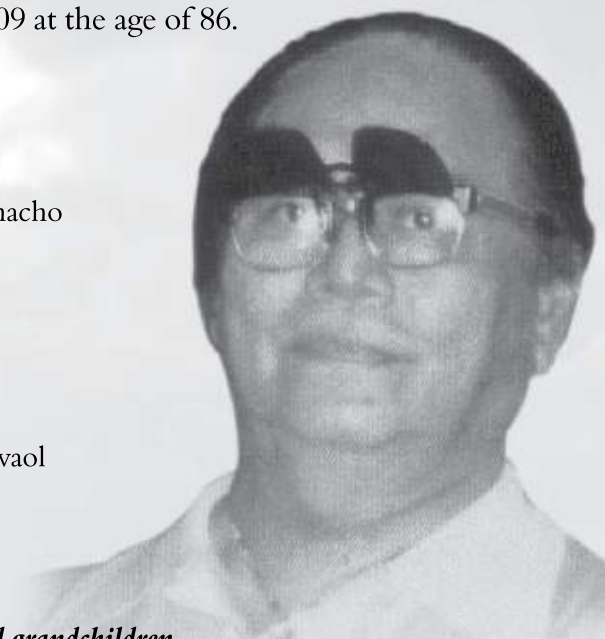
"Sha-Kon-O-Hey!" is her "other" musical opening this spring. Her production of "9 to 5" is debuting on Broadway, April 7. Parton wrote all of the music and lyrics for the show, and she was involved in all of the casting. But don't expect to see her up on stage.

"Nobody asked me to perform. I said it's still called '9 to 5' not 'Ninety-five,'" she joked.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Torcuato Borja Tudela

fondly known as **"Katu or Tun Katu"**
of Tanapag/Capitol Hill, Saipan was called to his eternal rest
on February 15, 2009 at the age of 86.



In his death he now joins his:

Parents
†Vicente Ramirez Tudela and †Rita Borja Tudela

Reared Son/Daughter-in-Law
†Vicente Tudela Camacho and †Marcela Norita Camacho

Brothers/Sisters In-Law and Spouses
†**Isidoro** B. and †Theresa T. Tudela
†**Dolores** T. and †Sebastian Camacho
†**Josepha** T. and †Oswald C. Sablan
†**Francisco** B. and †Maria P. Tudela
†**Ana** T. and †Carlos Torres
†**Manuel** B. Tudela and †Julia Torre/†Roberta Kesewaol
†**Rosario** B. Tudela
†**Remedio** B. Tudela
†Matilde S. Tudela
†Gregorio C. Cabrera

His memory will forever live in the hearts of his reared grandchildren
Joseph A. and Doreen M. Tudela (Joey, Desiree)
Joseph James N. Camacho and Viola Alepuyo (Ulen)
Kenneth N. and Tina Marie Camacho (Marlee/Ruben, Felisha, Courtney, Vincent, KC)
Isidoru N. and Melissa M. Camacho
George N. Camacho and Sue B. Quitano (Kuino Benbar, Heath Quinten)
Lareyna N. Camacho and Clifford Q. Nekai
Vincent N. Camacho

Brothers/Sisters/In-Law and Spouses
Jose B. and Flor Tudela
Escolastica T. Cabrera
Livia T. and Leslie Carothers (Elizabeth Town, Kentucky)
Carmen T. and Agustin B. Flores

Caretakers
Eloy Tudela Cabrera
Joshua James Cabrera
Marianas Visiting Nurses

His memory will also live in the hearts of numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, godsons and goddaughters.

Daily Mass is being offered every morning at 6:00 a.m and nightly Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m.
at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan until February 22, 2009.

On **Monday, February 23, 2009** our beloved Torcuato will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home at 7:30 a.m. to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. followed by internment services at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Chalan Kanoa.

Thank You for your Thoughts and Prayers
THE FAMILY

Hendrix estate wins trademark dispute over vodka

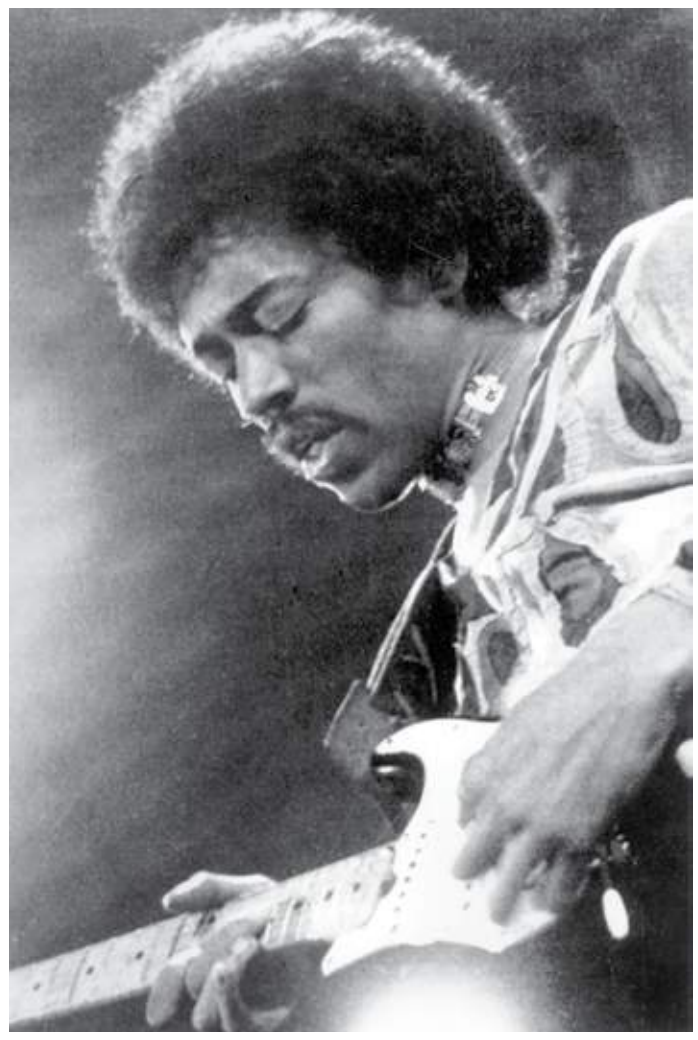
SEATTLE (AP)—A company that promoted "Hendrix Electric" vodka is paying $3.2 million to the estate of rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix, which claimed the spirit infringed on the Hendrix trademark and was created in poor taste.

A federal judge last year sided with Experience Hendrix, the company that controls the trademark, in determining that Seattle businessman Craig Dieffenbach and his Electric Hendrix LLC didn't have permission to use the guitarist's image or name.

A trial was scheduled for this month to determine how much Dieffenbach should have to pay in damages. Instead, the sides negotiated an agreement by which Dieffenbach and Electric Hendrix would pay $3.2 million.

U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly entered a judgment for that amount last week and ordered Dieffenbach and his companies to stop selling and marketing the vodka or any other products branded with the Hendrix name.

"This judgment recognizes our family's long-standing commitment to preserve the Jimi Hendrix legacy and artistic vision," Jimi's stepsister, Janie Hendrix, said in a written statement.



AP

In this 1970 file photo, rock and roll guitarist Jimi Hendrix is shown performing on the Isle of Wight in England.

Leon Hendrix, the younger half brother of Jimi Hendrix, was Dieffenbach's business partner in the vodka enterprise. He was written out of the $80 million Hendrix estate by his late father, Al Hendrix, and Dieffenbach, a Seattle developer and Hendrix fan, financed his unsuccessful court battle to gain a slice of the money.

A lawyer for Dieffenbach did not immediately return a call seeking comment Wednesday.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maria Gina H. Santos

October 22, 1957 - February 16, 2009

Her memory will live forever in the hearts of her:

Children: Christine H. Santos & Giancarlo Pierre Evangelista
Liza H. Santos
Husband: Vicente Mafnas Santos
Brothers & Sisters In-law: Patricia, Roque, Jesus, Remedio, Barbara, John, Ramon, Norman & Families

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: Cris Ayran H.
Brother: Efren
Sisters: Hermie & Edith
Grandmother: Caridad N. Mascardo
Mother In-law: Isabel Mafnas Santos
Brother In-law: Alvin M. Santos
Grandparents In-law: Ignacia Aguon & Enrique Agulto Santos

She will be greatly missed by her mother Rosalina and brother John, the Mafnas & Evangelista families, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends in the U.S., Philippines, Spain & Guam.

Nightly rosary is being said at Kristo Rai at 7:30 p.m. On Tuesday, February 24, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Señora dela Paz to Kristo Rai at 10:00 a.m. for viewing. Mass will be at 1:00 p.m. followed by the burial at Sanctuario Pax in Kagman.

Thank You.

From the Family

JOINT DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Remembering you with love each day, although we are apart we are comforted by the knowledge that God has you in His keeping. We have you in our hearts.

In Loving Memory

Lourdes C. Deleon Guerrero
First Death Anniversary

Joseph C. Deleon Guerrero
Second Death Anniversary

We the family would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us as we commemorate the first and second death anniversaries of our beloved unto eternal life.

Mass is being said nightly at 6:00 p.m. followed by nightly rosary at 7:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church from February 21, 2009 through March 1, 2009.

On the final day, Sunday, March 1, rosary will be said at 5:00 p.m. followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m., appreciation dinner will follow immediately at the San Vicente Church Social Hall.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Edward M. Deleon Guerrero and Children

Barbara Walters interviews Oscar host Hugh Jackman

Jackman

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Jackman is a charmer and the height of cool.

But his role as host of Sunday's Oscar broadcast has given this versatile entertainer a trace of preshow jitters, according to Barbara Walters.

"He's nervous about it. He's never done it before!" says Walters, who recently interviewed Jackman for her 28th annual Oscar-night special.

"I said, 'What would REALLY make you nervous?' And he said, 'Looking in the front row and seeing Jack Nicholson.'"

Jackman is taking those Oscarcast duties seriously, Walters says.

"He talks about the most important time in his life—and the Academy Awards (broadcast) is second."

But what ranks first?

"It has to do with his father," says Walters, while keeping further details under wraps until airtime (7 p.m. EST on ABC and, on the West Coast, following the telecast).

Coleman deposition won't be released

PROVO, Utah (AP)—A judge has ruled that a videotaped deposition of Gary Coleman won't be released to the public until a personal injury lawsuit against the actor over an incident at a Payson bowling alley is settled.

Coleman

Fourth District Judge Samuel McVey said Tuesday that he was worried about whether there would be a fair trial if people in a jury pool had seen the video.

"I do not want to come in here and have the whole jury challenged off," he said.

Terry Plant, Coleman's attorney, said that if the video were released it could spread quickly and destroy Coleman.

The 41-year-old actor starred in the "Diff'rent Strokes" TV series.

Dustin Lance, an attorney for Colt Rushton, who is suing Coleman over the September incident in which Coleman allegedly hit Rushton with his truck, objected to keeping the deposition sealed.

Lance said the likelihood of a fair trial is the same whether or not the video is released. He said the case is already known based on media reports and contends that Coleman is asking for special privileges.

Style stars can be winners at the Oscars too

The red carpet at the Academy Awards is the Superbowl of fashion, with stars emerging after big plays and others sinking after big mistakes.

The stakes are high for actresses and the designers who dress them. Prada began its ascent to a household name on the back of Uma Thurman, and more people probably talk about Sharon Stone's key high-low Oscars outfits than they do about her movies.

And do you ever hear anyone buzzing about Bjork these days unless it's a joke about her bizarre swan getup?

An actress' fashion choice for Hollywood's biggest event will follow her around in photos for a lifetime like a glamorous Giorgio Armani train.

This year's lot of best-actress nominees is a group of lovely ladies who now have a chance to put their own fashion stamp on the biggest Hollywood event of the year. The AP asked stylist and Harper's Bazaar consultant Mary Alice Stephenson to make her own suggestions to the stars about what to wear to make the biggest style splash:

AP

Stylist and Harper's Bazaar consultant Mary Alice Stephenson is seen with a Thakoon dress at a Thakoon showroom in New York in this Monday, Feb. 9, 2009 photo.

Angelina Jolie in Calvin Klein

Jolie wants people to see her as a fine actress, not a fashion plate, says Stephenson, and that's fine. However, she can still look amazing—thanks to her natural beauty and fantastic figure—while not changing the message.

Simple and sensual is the way for Jolie to go, Stephenson says, perhaps in sleek jersey gown in a flesh tone or smoky gray from Calvin Klein. The gowns designed by Francisco Costa graze the body and look even better moving than standing still.

"I respect the understated glamour, but she also leans to dresses that are very modern, and that's why she's a match for Calvin Klein. In a Calvin, it's about what's not there that makes the dresses really special," she says.

She'd look stunning in an either a plunging neckline or deep, sexy opening in the back—or both—but don't expect her in any sequins, corsetry or bows.

Kate Winslet in Alberta Ferretti

Winslet has looked great this awards season, especially since she's been accessorizing with all those gold trophies, says Stephenson, but each of her gowns have been dark and highly structured, flaunting her curvy figure.

Now might be the time to be a goddess, Stephenson suggests, picking out a bronze ruffle-back gown with retro-style beading. Ferretti gowns have the built-in corsetry of the more architectural styles Winslet seems to favor, but the outward appearance is one of a softer touch.

Winslet's rosy skin would allow her to wear romantic colors, without looking washed out. Stephenson also likes for her a lilac one-shoulder goddess gown and a teal strapless gown with floral beading and soft tiers of ruffle at the bust.

"I'd like to see her feminine and ethereal."

Anne Hathaway in Thakoon

Hathaway could become the fashion plate she played in "The Devil Wears Prada," although so far she's played it safe with traditional glamour-girl looks. Thakoon, says Stephenson, would push the envelope just enough—perhaps experimenting with fabric or color—to capture Hathaway's natural "fashion exuberance."

"She's young and she should dress young and wear clothes as fresh as she is. She can take classic glamour and turn it upside down."

Stephenson picks from Thakoon's downtown studio a short, one-shoulder dress made with upper and lower layers of black tulle with silver beading floating between the layers. A one-of-a-kind dress such as this one take about three days to make, the designer says.

It's a less traditional Oscar gown, but it's also dramatic and highly photogenic—and that's as important as looking good in person. "When these actresses hit the red carpet, they have to look like movie stars."

Melissa Leo in J. Mendel

A lesser-known star nominated for her role in the low-budget drama "Frozen River," Melissa Leo is a stylist's dream because "she hasn't made her fashion imprint yet," says Stephenson. "Melissa Leo is a white canvas, and I want to take her from zero to 100 in a single outing."

Stephenson suggests J. Mendel, a design house known for sophistication, glamour and luxurious details.

In the designer's workroom, she sees a navy dress with all-over vertical pleats that Stephenson says is a dramatic silhouette that a fine dramatic actress can pull off. The other choice would be a more ethereal, diaphanous purple gown that still defines the waist.

"So much about this is about how an actress feels that morning of the Oscars: Does she feel bold or delicate?" Stephenson says.

If she were actually dressing any of these stars for the big night, she adds, she wouldn't arrive with one dress that day, she'd have at least three—whittled down from 30 original choices.

Meryl Streep in Donna Karan

Streep is the most Oscar-nominated performer in history, yet has never emerged as a style star. That could change, Stephenson says, in a Donna Karan gown straight from the New York Fashion Week runway.

Her two picks would be either an all-over draped gown with a strong shoulder, or a fan-style strapless gown.

Karan's collection was sensual and stylish, while still embracing the dark colors and significant coverage that Streep seems to like. Stephenson says, however, that she might try to nudge both the designer and the star to make a switch to a rich jewel tone color—still dark, but more regal.

"I love seeing Donna Karan on the red carpet because the dresses are chic and sophisticated and ultimately you pay more attention to how glamorous the woman looks," she says. "You notice the woman first not the dress, and isn't that what it supposed to be about?"

'Suge' Knight pleads guilty to one misdemeanor battery

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Marion "Suge" Knight has pleaded guilty to misdemeanor battery for beating a woman in a Las Vegas parking lot last year.

The 43-year-old rap producer entered the plea in Las Vegas Justice Court Tuesday in a deal that dismissed two felony drug charges and one felony coercion charge stemming from the August incident.

Police said officers witnessed the co-founder of Death Row Records striking Melissa Isaac while holding a knife in a parking lot near the Las Vegas Strip. They said Knight was carrying Ecstasy and hydrocodone when they arrested him.

Justice of the Peace Eric Goodman ordered Knight to receive counseling and pay a $340 fine. He's due back in court in August for a status check.

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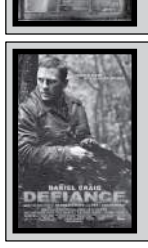
The Uninvited

Friday		4:05	7:25	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:25	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:25	
Mon and Tues		4:05	7:25	

Elizabeth Banks, David Strathairn
Horror, Remake • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
A deadly battle of wills begins when Anna returns from a psychiatric facility and investigates the circumstances surrounding her mother's suspicious and untimely death. While Anna recuperates from the tragedy, her father becomes engaged to Rachel, her mother's former nurse, and moves her into their home. Anna's dismay quickly turns to horror when she is visited by her mother's ghost—crying out for revenge and pointing an accusing finger at Rachel.



Defiance

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon and Tues		4:00	7:00	

Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber
Action, Drama, War • Rated R

Synopsis
The year is 1941 and the Jews of Eastern Europe are being massacred by the thousands. Managing to escape certain death, three brothers take refuge in the dense surrounding woods they have known since childhood. There they begin their desperate battle against the Nazis. At first it is all they can do to stay alive. But gradually, as whispers of their daring spreads, they begin to attract others—men and women, young and old—willing to risk everything for the sake of even a moment's freedom.

★ ★ ★

Friday The 13th

Friday		4:20	7:05	10:00
Saturday	1:05	4:20	7:05	10:00
Sunday	1:05	4:20	7:05	
Mon and Tues		4:20	7:05	

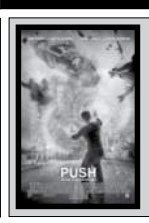
Jared Padalecki, Amanda Righetti
Horror, Remake • Rated R

Synopsis
Clay searches for his missing sister in the eerie woods of legendary Crystal Lake, where he stumbles on the creaky remains of rotting old cabins behind moss-covered trees. And that's not the only thing lying in wait under the brush. Against the advice of police and cautions from the locals, Clay pursues what few leads he has, with the help of a young woman he meets among a group of college kids up for an all-thrills weekend.

Pink Panther 2

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:10	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:10	
Mon and Tues		4:10	7:10	

Steve Martin, Andy Garcia
Comedy, Mystery • Rated PG



Push

Friday		4:15	7:30	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	9:40
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon and Tues		4:15	7:30	

Chris Evans, Dakota Fanning
Thriller Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Ang Tanging Ina N'yong Lahat

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon and Tues		4:25	7:20	

Ai-Ai de las Alas, Eugene Domingo
Comedy • Rated PG

Taken

Friday		4:30	7:15	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:15	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:15	
Mon and Tues		4:30	7:15	

Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace
Action, Drama, Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Marriages blessed in church not licensed at courthouse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR READERS: Since I printed the letter from "Deceived in Arizona" (Nov. 30), I have learned that not only individuals, but also some churches feel so strongly about separating the legal aspect of marriage from the religious that they have voted to only "bless unions," and their clergy no longer sign marriage licenses. Among them are member churches of the United Church of Christ, the Unitarian-Universalists and the Quakers. Instead, the model they follow is the one used in Europe, in which couples go to a courthouse to register their marriage, and then to a church or synagogue for a religious ceremony. Read on:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: In this day and age, especially with jobs so scarce, a lot of young couples are finding that by becoming legally married they disqualify themselves from things like prenatal care, health care for their children and government assistance programs. In order to survive, many couples now opt to have the ceremony without the paperwork.

Another idea gaining in popularity is that unless everyone in this country has equal rights for marriage, no one should be getting married. Several couples I know have married without the paperwork because they regard the alternative the same as sitting at a segregated lunch counter, and they are unwilling to support segregation.

Many people feel there is a blatant disregard for separation of church and state and that "legal" marriages are not at all legal, but an example of government recognizing those with faith while disregarding those who have a different point of view on what family is.

REV. M.N.R. IN NEW YORK

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were married by a minister, but without a marriage license because his financial problems could have adversely affected me. Because we did want to commit to each other, we called it a "Ceremony of Commitment." We view ourselves as being married, and I have a ring.

When the ceremony was held, everyone knew what was going on. We requested no gifts, but many people still brought them. Because we were honest, some of the members of my church have turned against me and refuse to talk to me. They acknowledge my granddaughter and will talk to her while I am standing there watching, but will not say a word to me.

The way the couple in the letter you published handled it wasn't fair to their families and guests. They should have been upfront about it, which would have given everyone the right to make their own decision about whether to attend. I see nothing wrong with being married in the eyes of God. When the Bible was written, did they have marriage licenses then?

REBECCA IN SUNNYVALE, CALIF.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Increasing numbers of us reject licenses from the state in favor of honoring God's word—and it's not just old people who want to hang onto welfare benefits.

Nowhere in the Bible does a servant of God ask permission from the government to marry. The Father is more than good enough. And while there are references to "what God has joined together," there is no similar praise for what Caesar has blessed.

The state may want to control and even redefine marriage. But a covenant before God, and witnesses, has been more than good enough for His people throughout most of history, and it has worked for my house for more than 30 years.

GOD IS OUR WITNESS IN COLORADO

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

'Benjamin Button': Big Oscar loser in the making?

AP

In this image released by Paramount Pictures, Brad Pitt and Cate Blanchett are shown in a scene from, "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The producers of "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" toiled for 18 years on their strange romantic epic, so simply bringing it to the screen—let alone grabbing a leading 13 Academy Awards nominations—was a victory.

Winning any of those Oscars come Sunday night is another challenge.

"Benjamin Button" is in a curious awards position, tied with eight past films for second-most nominations ever. Yet there's a slim chance it could go home empty-handed, setting a record for Oscar futility by a single film.

Of the 10 past films with 13 or more nominations, all won at least four Oscars. If "Benjamin Button" wound up being shut out, it would become the biggest loser ever, surpassing the zero-for-11 record by 1977's "The Turning Point" and 1985's "The Color Purple." In 2002, "Gangs of New York" went zero-for-10.

"Benjamin Button" has been an omnipresent nominee at earlier Hollywood honors, but it has not won major prizes other than three technical trophies at last week's British Academy Film Awards.

It was shut out at the Golden Globes and Screen Actors Guild Awards, while the directors, producers and writers guilds all passed it over for "Slumdog Millionaire," which has 10 Oscar nominations and is expected to dominate the evening.

"Slumdog Millionaire" also defeated "Benjamin Button" for top honors from trade groups for cinematography and film editing, two of the seven total categories where both are competing at the Oscars. The historical pageant "The Duchess" beat "Benjamin Button" at the Costume Designers Guild Awards.

"Benjamin Button" is considered a longshot in its top four categories: best picture, director (David Fincher), actor (Brad Pitt) and supporting actress (Taraji P. Henson).

"Slumdog Millionaire" is the heavy favorite to win best picture and director for Danny Boyle. Oddsmakers place Sean Penn ("Milk"), Mickey Rourke ("The Wrestler") and Frank Langella ("Frost/Nixon") ahead of Pitt and Penelope Cruz ("Vicky Cristina Barcelona") and Viola Davis ("Doubt") ahead of Henson.

Even if it wins some of its other categories, losing out on best picture would put "Benjamin Button" producer Kathleen Kennedy in the Oscar record books. It would be Kennedy's sixth loss, tying her with Stanley Kramer for most best-picture nominations without a win.

Frank Marshall, Kennedy's producing partner on "Benjamin Button," would move into second place, going zero-for-five on best picture.

"Obviously, we've never won. It would be nice to win for this one," Marshall said. "Thirteen nominations is also a lucky number for us, because I was born on Friday the 13th."

Kennedy and Marshall, who first took on "Benjamin Button" in 1990, have shared past nominations for "The Color Purple," "The Sixth Sense" and "Seabiscuit." She also had nominations on her own for "E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial" and "Munich," while Marshall also was nominated for "Raiders of the Lost Ark."

"Benjamin Button" is a strong visual-effects competitor for the digital magic that went into the story of a man born old and aging backward. It has tough opposition, though, in the year's blockbuster superhero tales, "The Dark Knight" and "Iron Man."

"The Dark Knight" also is up against "Benjamin Button" in five other technical categories.

"Benjamin Button" is not the only potential big loser Sunday. Kate Winslet is up for best actress in "The Reader," her sixth nomination.

'American Idol' selects first 3 finalists

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tatiana Del Toro had something else to cry about. The emotional 28-year-old crooner from San Juan, Puerto Rico, was one of nine "American Idol" semifinalists sent packing Wednesday. Del Toro, whom judge Simon Cowell called a "drama queen" after her performance Tuesday, bawled after she wasn't selected to continue in the "Fox" singing competition.

"It's up to America," she told host Ryan Seacrest before the results. "It's up to the power of love."

No tears were shed by the first three finalists of season eight: Alexis Grace, the soulful 21-year-old single mother from Memphis, Tenn.; Michael Sarver, the beefy 27-year-old oil rig worker from Jasper, Texas; and Danny Gokey, the spikey-haired 28-year-old church music director from Milwaukee. The trio received the most viewer votes.

Recent widower Gokey overwhelmed the judges with Mariah Carey's "Hero" at the conclusion of Tuesday's ho-hum performance episode. They were also impressed with Grace's take on Aretha Franklin's "Never Loved a Man," comparing her to first "Idol" Kelly Clarkson. Sarver, who sang Gavin Degraw's "I Don't Wanna Be," received a mixed reaction from the panel.

"I think if you get through, it's because people like you," Cowell told Sarver on Tuesday.

Next week, 12 more semifinalists will vie for three spots in the competition's top 12, but Del Toro and the other dismissed semifinalists, such as Anoop Desai and Ricky Braddy, may have another chance. After the first nine finalists are selected by viewer votes, the judges will pick the last three finalists following a wild card round March 5.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Reggaeton star Daddy Yankee touts cologne

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Reggaeton singer Daddy Yankee is touting his men's cologne, saying it has been reviewed and approved by an important audience: 100 women. The Puerto Rican singer says he is not only promoting his "Daddy Yankee" cologne, but also a new Web site and his film "Talento de Barrio." He told reporters in Mexico City that he also plans to launch a perfume for women before the end of the year. The artist, whose real name is Ramon Ayala, is best known for his song "Gasolina."

Coldplay and Duffy lead race for Brit Awards

LONDON (AP)—Soul singer Duffy and Coldplay dominate the nominations for British music's prestigious Brit Awards. Both acts have four nominations, including best British album for Coldplay's "Viva La Vida" and Duffy's debut "Rockferry." Kanye West, Beyonce and Kings of Leon are nominated in the international categories at the awards, to be handed out later Wednesday. The Brits are the British equivalent of the Grammys, and are expected to draw an A-list musical lineup to London's Earl's Court arena. U2 and Kings of Leon are scheduled to perform. The Pet Shop Boys are due to receive an award for outstanding contribution to music.

Usher's wife checks out of Brazil hospital

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP)—The wife of R&B singer Usher was released from a Sao Paulo hospital after spending 11 days recovering from a cardiac arrest she suffered shortly before undergoing plastic surgery.

A spokeswoman for the Sirio-Libanes Hospital said Wednesday that Tameka Raymond left the facility Monday night but declined to provide any details on Raymond's treatment at the family's request. The spokeswoman spoke on condition of anonymity per hospital policy.

Representatives for Usher had no immediate comment.

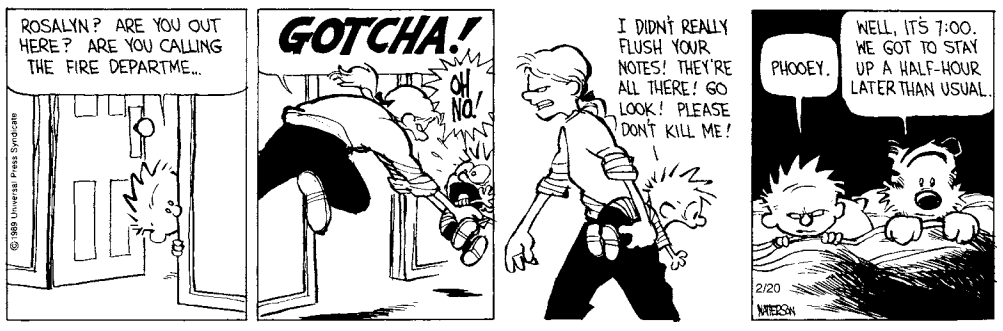
Ellen Dastry, a spokeswoman for the doctor who was to perform the plastic surgery, said last week that Raymond suffered a cardiac arrest while being anesthetized ahead of a "simple liposuction" at Sao Paulo's Sao Rafael Hospital.

Raymond was revived in less than a minute with heart massage, and was placed in an induced coma before being taken to the intensive-care unit, said Dastry, spokeswoman for plastic surgeon Silvio Sterman.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ROSALYN? ARE YOU OUT HERE? ARE YOU CALLING THE FIRE DEPARTME..
GOTCHA!
OH NO!
I DIDN'T REALLY FLUSH YOUR NOTES! THEY'RE ALL THERE! GO LOOK! PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!
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By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

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IT WON'T.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
WE DON'T GIVE AWAY FREE PIZZA.
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Scepter adornment
4 Spinning meas.
7 First-anniversary gift
12 Sheepish remark?
13 Will Smith biopic
14 Impressive setup
15 Recede
16 Human-lion-dragon hybrid
18 Copper head?
19 Villain's look
20 Radiator noise
22 Historic time
23 "Bye Bye Birdie" song
27 Frequently
29 "Deal or No Deal" host
31 Acid type
34 Spacious
35 Way
37 Moment
38 Shetland, for one
39 Midafternoon, in a way
41 Beneficent
45 Bread
47 — juice (milk)
48 Woody Allen movie
52 Present topper
53 Wanted-poster datum
54 Time of your life?
55 Work with
56 Furrier's wares
57 Wield a needle
58 Conger or moray

DOWN
1 West Indian magic
2 Synagogue VIP
3 Infants
4 St. Louis squad
5 Mars, e.g.
6 Clementine's dad, e.g.
7 Poker holding
8 Joan of —
9 Expert
10 Anvil site
11 Alternative to white
17 4-Down, e.g.
21 One of the Corleones
23 Rap
24 Altar affirmative
25 Rep. rival
26 Crafty
28 Adversary
30 Exist
31 Pump up the volume
32 Long March leader
33 B&B
36 Urban disturbance
37 Stored fodder
40 Teeny bits
42 Dye deeply
43 Sue Grafton's "N"
44 Wooden peg
45 Church service
46 From the start
48 Navigation aid
49 Hearty quaff
50 Zero
51 Chapeau

Solution time: 25 mins.

W	A	S	■	M	U	F	F	■	B	A	G	S
A	S	K	■	A	G	R	A	■	E	M	I	T
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E	G	O	■	R	U	E	■	I	N	F	R	A
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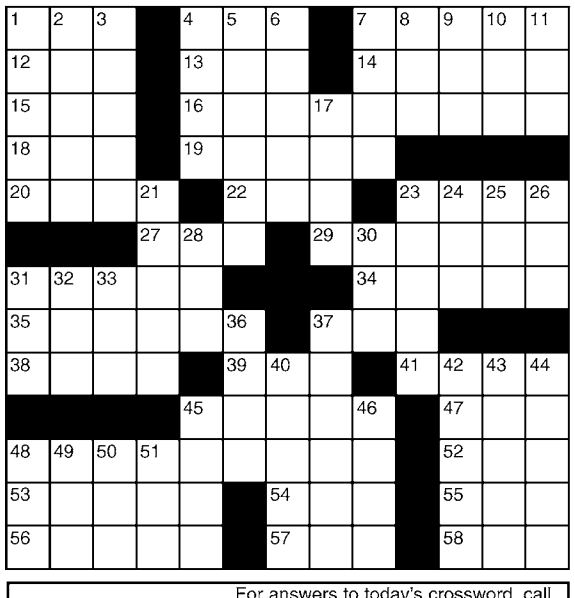
■	■	■	E	A	T	■	S	U	P	P	E	R
S	N	O	W	J	O	B	■	P	A	S	■	■
N	O	V	A	■	T	R	!	P	W	I	R	E
A	D	A	R	■	E	I	R	E	■	D	A	W
G	E	L	T	■	M	E	E	T	■	E	Y	E

Yesterday's answer 2-20



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Brian Littrell, 34; Andrew Shue, 42; Cindy Crawford, 43; French Stewart, 45

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional issues cloud your view this year. Partnerships may be iffy but, as long as you don't let them bring you down, you will win. Detach yourself from negative people and gravitate toward those who are forward-thinking and able to help you achieve what you set out to do. Your numbers are 6, 10, 12, 27, 39, 45, 48

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You can get yourself into a whole lot of trouble personally by not being emotionally supportive. Look at all sides of an issue before you start taking action or making reforms. Make sure you are doing what's best for everyone. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Let someone you trust guide you to make the right decision. You are likely to misjudge what's involved. Nothing is quite as it appears so don't take on more than you can handle. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): An emotional decision will bring about a sudden change that can help you personally and professionally. Your ability to get things done will impress others and lead to bigger and better offers. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): By conforming and compromising, you will get what you want. A love issue may cause you grief but it will lead to a better lifestyle and future. Get serious about what's required. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Take it easy and enjoy what life has to offer. You've got the finesse to persuade others to do things your way, but if you overreact, are too pushy or use brawn over brains, you will accomplish little. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let a love that isn't working for you cause you grief, cost you financially or, even worse, stop you from doing something you really want to do. Change can be the driving force behind where you end up in the future. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You have to push for what you want and be prepared to go after it on your own if necessary. Romantic opportunities will help you make a decision that will alter the way you live. Social events will bring you some interesting ideas for getting ahead. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Lean toward the unique if you want to fool someone who may be trying to sabotage what you are working to achieve. Giving out too much information way back in the initial stages of a project you were working on will come back to haunt you now. Be prepared. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Focus on increasing your income by putting some of your talents to work for you. Love is looking good and, with a little charm, you can entice someone you are fond of to do things your way. Don't take on others' responsibilities. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Give a healthy push to someone who can influence your future. Emotional matters will escalate if you shirk personal responsibilities or have a change of heart about someone you've been spending a lot of time with. Move on if necessary. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): The ball is in your court and it's time for you to make a play. You can up your status and your lifestyle by hooking up with the right person. Uncertainty will stand in your way, so make a decision and move forward. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Being helpful is one thing but being taken advantage of is another. Don't let your heart rule your head. Take your time and watch to see how much is being offered before you let your generosity run wild. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a trendsetter and a humanitarian. You are dedicated and loyal. You size up situations promptly and make changes without hesitation.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8		2				
			6			1		
7						5	4	
	3			6				
9			3	5	7			2
				8			9	
	8	2						5
		4			3			
				7		3		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	1	6	5	3	9	7	8
8	5	7	1	4	9	2	3	6
3	6	9	8	2	7	5	4	1
2	8	3	4	7	6	1	9	5
1	9	6	3	8	5	4	2	7
5	7	4	9	1	2	6	8	3
6	4	8	7	9	1	3	5	2
9	1	2	5	3	8	7	6	4
7	3	5	2	6	4	8	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SAN DIEGO SHIP TERMINAL **Solution: 8 letters**

W	E	S	T	D	A	I	L	Y	C	R	U	I	S	E
H	A	E	D	E	V	E	L	O	P	M	E	N	T	W
A	R	T	S	P	T	N	E	I	N	E	V	N	O	C
R	R	B	E	A	C	H	E	S	A	L	G	R	R	O
F	I	S	R	R	B	S	A	N	D	N	N	S	E	M
N	V	E	C	T	F	S	P	K	I	A	I	A	S	M
O	A	D	A	U	S	R	L	M	(M)	R	E	I	P	U
I	L	I	W	R	L	E	O	E	A	(A)	E	L	A	N
T	Y	R	R	E	F	C	N	N	T	R	(S)	S	C	I
C	S	A	V	S	L	T	P	I	T	O	T	(T)	E	T
A	K	A	B	E	S	O	L	C	L	T	H	C	A	Y
R	R	A	W	A	R	N	O	R	W	E	G	I	A	N
T	A	Y	O	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E
T	P	C	S	T	N	A	R	U	A	T	S	E	R	S
A	C	T	I	V	I	T	I	E	S	C	E	N	I	C

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 2/20

Acres, Activities, Arrival, Attraction, Base, Bay, Beaches, Close, Coast, Community, Convenient, Cruise, Daily, Departures, Development, Environment, Ferry, Hotels, Lines, Mast, Norwegian, Ornaments, Parks, Pier, Port, Ramps, Restaurants, Rides, Sails, Sand, Scenic, Sightseeing, Space, Stores, Travel, Waterfront, Welcoming, West, Wharf, Yacht

Yesterday's Answer: Maritime

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Include $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

2 bedroom, handicap equipped unit
1 & 2 bedroom basic units also available
Fully-furnished
Location: Susupe and San Vicente
Please contact Rachel at 234-5236
during office hours
Mon. to Fri. 8:30am - 4:00pm

Computer Repair

Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
233-5641
Open 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

BAKER
CARPENTER
TAILOR
VINTNER
PLUMBER

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Find today's solution in this section

SIS Garage Sale

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

Saturday, February 28
Set Up: 6:00 AM
Sale: 6:30 AM—12:00 PM
Saipan International School

Tent Spaces cost $20 and are limited.

Call Mili at 288-9660 to Reserve your Space now!

Clean out your closet! It's a great opportunity to sell things you no longer need and find just what you are looking for!

GARAGE SALE

Saturday, Feb. 21 @ 7:30am in Garapan, right across Garapan Elementary School & Aquarius Apartments. Great deals on all stuff.

LOST CAMERA @ 360 Restaurant

Silver digital camera with pink cover case.
Cash reward if returned with picture.
No question ask.
Please call Ellen at 287-6118

JOETEN ENTERPRISES, INC.

Is looking for qualified candidate to fill the following position:

COOK

Interested applicants may apply at the Human Resources Office from Monday through Friday, 8-5pm.
2nd floor Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe, Saipan.
NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 bedroom, 1 bathroom house centrally located in Garapan, equipped with a water tank, air conditioners in every room, nice, safe, and friendly neighborhood. NMHC applicants welcome.
Please call 483-3848/285-2713 for more information.

Make it a daily habit! Log on to www.saipantribune.com

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Opening Date: 02/03/09 Closing Date: CONTINUOUS

POSITION	EXAMINATION NO.
Audit Manager (2) positions	09-010
Senior Auditor (3) positions	09-011
Audit Supervisor (2) positions	09-012
Auditor (4) positions	09-013

For more information , please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcements at the Office of Personnel Management (OPA) in Garapan.

WHATZIT Solution:
Jack of all trades

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

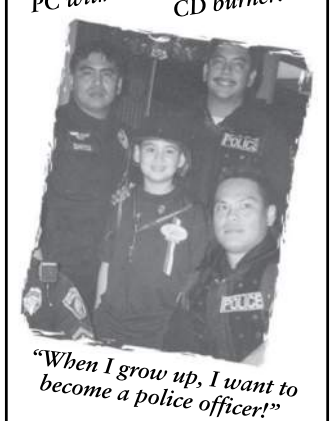
2 bedroom apt., furnished, 24hrs. water supply, safe & quiet neighborhood. Located at Beach Rd., Garapan & Gualo Rai Vill. For inquiries: call 483-2729 or 234-5593

SERVICE

Ready for a change in health, $$, stress, anxiety, pain, attitude? individual, family or group sessions. BeverLi, CHTP, EFT 235-5992. Sldg scale. Learn to feel better.

share the power of a wish®

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"



"When I grow up, I want to become a police officer!"

15 years of making wishes come true!
For eligible children with life-threatening illnesses

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104
Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm
M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

Commonwealth 0f the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-007

REPAIR AND RENOVATION OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BOATING SAFETY SMILING COVE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Repair and Renovation of Department of Public Safety Boating Safety Smiling Cove, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands **(CNMI)**.

The project package will be available on or after February 20, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$I00.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Bidding procuredures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to US Citizens or Permanent Residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further **Amended by Public Law 15-118** and must be submitted with the BID or PROPOSAL if preference is claimed.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on March 11, 2009, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Boating Safety Smiling Cove. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on March 18, 2009 to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director** of Technical Services Division, DPW 2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 2343547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-007"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 23, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time March 23, 2008, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than March 23, 2009, and must be received no later than April 02, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid,

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, April 07, 2009, However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 p.m. local time, on March 27,2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and payment bonds must authorized to conduct business in CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US$100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

/s/ SANTIAGO F. TUDELA
Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Mount Carmel School

Post Office Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6184/234-7188 • Fax No. (670) 235-4751
Email: mtcarmel@vzpacifica.net • Web: http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net

IMMEDIATE JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mount Carmel School, a Catholic 1st through 12 grade is accepting applications for the position of School Principal. Mount Carmel School enrolls over 400 students with over 20 professional faculty and staff, and is fully accredited by the Western Accreditation of School and Colleges (WASC). Applicants for the position must be willing to assume responsibility fo the day to day administration of the school as well as assists in developing long range goals for the school. Applicants must be a practicing Catholic and actively committed to developing a faith community and be able to verbalize and clarify a philosophy of Catholic education.

Pay Level/Step: X/01-03

Per Annum: $32,000.00 - $33,948.80

Minimum Requirement: Graduation from accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree.

Closing Date: Until Filled

Interested applicants may obtain a detail job description with qualification requirements and application forms at Mount Carmel School Business Office from 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Application forms can also be downloaded from the school's website at http://www.mtcarmel-edu.net. Required documents must be attached to complete application forms (1) Official copy of diploma/degree or Official transcripts, (2) FBI Clearance (only required after an offer for employment is made or an employment contract is signed, (3) police clearance (from jurisdiction of residence within the last three months), (4) resume, and teaching certificate. Completed applications and required documents may be submitted to Mount Carmel School Attn: Margaret C. DelaCruz, President, P.O. Box 500006, Saipan, MP 96950, telephone number (670) 235-1201/3187. Mount Carmel School is an equal opportunity employer.

Fully Accredited by the Western Association of School and Colleges

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-009

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the **Construction of Generator House at various Head Start Centers on Saipan for the CNMI State Public School System (PSS).** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-009" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 2:00 p.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-009, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

There will a pre-bid conference for interested vendors on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the PSS Conference/Lounge Room on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building in Capitol Hill on the island of Saipan. Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to MT. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

Contractors are required to submit with their proposal, a copy of their valid CNMI Business License. The Public School System reserves the right to award single or multiple awards or to reject any or all proposals, in whole or in part, extend the contract 2 or 3 times, if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 09-010

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive scaled proposals **to establish and facilitate a Scoring Center in the CNMI State Public School System (PSS) statewide Standard Based Assessment.** Detailed information on the Scope of Work is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3 d floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

All proposals shall be in a sealed envelope face marked "RFP 09-010" containing one (1) original and five (5) copies and shall be submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than **March 10, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.** Responsibility Determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope marked "RFP 09-010, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" (one (1)-original and five (5) copies). Any proposal after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

Technical questions shall be in writing and addressed to Mr. Juan D. Babauta, Acting Procurement & Supply Officer, via fax # (670) 664-3791. Alternatively, questions may be e-mailed to the following address: *babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp.*

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All proposals shall become the property of the Public School System.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta
Acting, P&S Officer

Ex-Nets help Mavs pound New Jersey

DALLAS (AP)—Jason Kidd and Antoine Wright celebrated the first anniversary of their trade from the New Jersey Nets a day early Wednesday, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 113-98 victory over their former team.

Kidd opened the game with three early 3-pointers and scored 23 points, one shy of his season high. He also had 10 assists and a quick-handed steal against Devin Harris—the youngster he was dealt for—during the game-breaking third quarter. Wright hit three 3-pointers and scored 13 of his 20 points in the period.

Josh Howard had 24 points and 10 rebounds, and Dirk Nowitzki had 23 points and nine rebounds for Dallas, 7-2 since Kidd was put in charge of the offense. New Jersey lost its fourth straight, all by at least 15 points.

Lakers 129, Warriors 121

At Oakland, California, Kobe Bryant scored 30 points, and Pau Gasol added 24 points and 13 rebounds, as Los Angeles rallied past Golden State for its 13th victory in 15 games.

Lamar Odom scored 22 points for the Lakers, who have improved the NBA's best record to 44-10 with back-to-back wins following the All-Star break. Los Angeles trailed late into the fourth quarter, but made a 17-3 run beginning with back-to-back 3-pointers by Trevor Ariza, who finished with 17 points.

Stephen Jackson and Corey Maggette scored 24 points apiece for Golden State.

AP

Dallas Mavericks guard Jason Kidd (2) drives against New Jersey Nets guard Devin Harris (34) during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game in Dallas, Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009.

Hornets 117, Magic 85

At New Orleans, Chris Paul had 36 points and 10 assists as New Orleans handed Orlando its worst loss of the season.

Rasual Butler added 15 points, and David West had 14 for the Hornets, who've won their first two games following the All-Star break.

Rashard Lewis had 17 points, and J.J. Redick 14 for Orlando, which shot poorly from the field and free-throw line. Dwight Howard had 12 points and was a non-factor for most of the last three quarters, when he scored only two points.

Orlando's previous worst loss was by 19 points to Boston on Dec. 1.

Timberwolves 111, Heat 104

At Miami, Sebastian Telfair had 30 points and eight assists and Ryan Gomes added 20 points as Minnesota hit a season-high 14 3-pointers to spoil Jermaine O'Neal's debut in Miami.

Minnesota blew an 11-point lead with 10 minutes remaining, but recovered in time largely thanks to Telfair, who hit a 3-pointer with 1:26 left for a four-point lead—and the Timberwolves held on to snap a five-game slide.

Dwyane Wade finished with 37 points and 12 assists for Miami. O'Neal, who sustained a right eye injury in the third quarter and missed 13 minutes, had 13 points in his first game since being acquired from Toronto last week.

Cavaliers 93, Raptors 76

At Toronto, LeBron James had 20 points, nine rebounds and nine assists, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 22 points in Cleveland's win over Toronto.

Needing two rebounds and one assist in the final quarter for his 21st career triple-double, James had six points but only one rebound before leaving the game for good with just over 3 minutes remaining.

Mo Williams added 17 points for the Cavaliers, 6-2 in their last eight games. Joey Graham had 15 points for Toronto.

Nuggets 101, 76ers 89

At Philadelphia, Carmelo Anthony had 26 points and 14 rebounds and Chauncey Billups added 22 points as Denver downed Philadelphia for its third straight victory.

Billups scored 17 points in the third quarter—13 during a 24-4 run that erased a 10-point deficit and gave Denver a 61-51 lead.

Andre Miller led Philadelphia with 17 points, but strained his right calf with about 7 1/2 minutes left in the third quarter.

Suns 142, Clippers 119

At Los Angeles, Amare Stoudemire had 42 points and 11 rebounds, shooting 15-for-20 from the field as Phoenix beat the Los Angeles Clippers.

Steve Nash had 21 points and 12 assists for the rejuvenated Suns, who played their second game under interim head coach Alvin Gentry following Terry Porter's firing. Shaquille O'Neal had 16 points and six rebounds.

Bobcats 103, Pacers 94

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace had 25 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists, and Raymond Felton added 16 points as Charlotte beat Indiana.

Troy Murphy had 18 points and 16 rebounds for the Pacers. All-Star forward Danny Granger left after spraining his right foot early in the second quarter.

Bulls 113, Bucks 104

At Milwaukee, Kirk Hinrich scored a season-high 31 points, and Luol Deng added 21 for Chicago, playing with a short bench after trading four players to Sacramento.

Richard Jefferson tied a season high with 32 points for Milwaukee.

Hawks 105, Kings 100

At Sacramento, California, former Sacramento guard Mike Bibby scored 29 points to help Atlanta beat the short-handed Kings.

Kevin Martin had 32 points and 11 rebounds for Sacramento.

Trail Blazers 94, Grizzlies 90

At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy had 24 points, including two key layups in the final minutes to help Portland improve to 8-3 in its last 11 games.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 20 points.

Thunder rescind Tyson Chandler trade

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The Oklahoma City Thunder rescinded their trade with the New Orleans, sending center Tyson Chandler back to the Hornets.

Chandler failed a physical Wednesday, and the Thunder backed out of the deal that sent Chris Wilcox, Joe Smith and second-round pick DeVon Hardin to New Orleans.

No specific reason was given as to why Chandler didn't pass the physical, but he missed the last 12 games before the All-Star break because of a sprained left ankle.

"We were pleased to add Tyson to the Thunder roster," general manager Sam Presti said. "During the course of the physical examination and outside consultations some questions arose that gave us cause for concern. We felt that this course of action was the best for our organization."

New Orleans players had been distraught about the trade Tuesday, questioning it as a decision brought on because of the team's desire to stay below the salary cap instead of as a way to improve the roster. Chandler is due to make about $12 million next season.

All-Star forward David West called it a business decision instead of a basketball decision, and said it "leaves a big question mark in the middle" for New Orleans.

Point guard Chris Paul, also an All-Star, called Chandler his "big fella" and credited the 7-foot-1 center with helping him become a more confident player.

When word the trade had been rescinded reached Hornets players following their 117-85 win over Orlando on Wednesday night, many of them rejoiced.

"I'm excited to have T.C. back," Paul said. "I think it will give us a huge lift. Hopefully it will bring us closer together. You know, T.C. is family to us, so there won't be any animosity when he comes in here and he understands what's been the goal all along."

With the trade deadline looming Thursday, both teams have little time left to decide if they'll go in a different direction instead.

The Thunder, who'd been trying to find a franchise center for years with a series of first-round draft picks that didn't pan out, thought they might finally have their man. Instead, they're back in the market for a big man.

Chandler had been a big part of the turnaround that landed the Hornets the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference last year, when they pushed San Antonio to Game 7 in the conference semifinals. He averaged a double-double with 11.8 points and 11.8 rebounds and had more than 100 alley-oop dunks off of lobs from Paul.

His numbers were down a little, to 8.8 points and 8.3 rebounds per game this season as he missed 18 games due to injury.

"I think a lot of that is because of the injuries that he's suffered this season," Hornets coach Byron Scott said after the trade. "He's had a series of injuries this season that have really stunted his progress, unfortunately. I don't think it's so much that he's changed as a basketball player. I think it's that he's had some unfortunate circumstances."

NBA BRIEFS

Bulls get Miller, Salmons from Kings

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls acquired center Brad Miller and John Salmons from the Sacramento Kings on Wednesday for four players, including forwards Drew Gooden and Andres Nocioni. Sacramento also got Michael Ruffin and Cedric Simmons in the deal, but immediately traded Ruffin to the Portland Trail Blazers for forward Ike Diogu and cash. The Kings then waived guard Quincy Douby and veteran Sam Cassell, acquired on Tuesday from Boston, to make room for their new players. The Bulls gave up some salary flexibility to acquire Miller, a two-time All-Star who played 105 games with the Bulls early in his career. Although he hasn't played since Jan. 30 because of a hip injury, Miller—who's averaging 11.9 points and 8.0 rebounds—showed flashes of his best game earlier in the season. Salmons, a versatile swingman and Sacramento's second-leading scorer with 18.3 points, also could be a prominent contributor in Chicago. The disappointing Bulls apparently are still committed to chasing a playoff berth despite starting the day seven games below .500. "You always hate to lose good guys and good players, and that's difficult, but we're adding two guys that we like a lot," Bulls coach Vinny Del Negro said before the team's game at Milwaukee. "I think we're adding two really good pieces that we're excited about, and hopefully we can get them here soon and get them acclimated as soon as possible."

McGrady says he's out for season with knee injury

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets star Tracy McGrady will have surgery on his left knee and miss the rest of the season. The star forward said on his Web site Wednesday that the pain has been persistent and he will have microfracture surgery. He's confident he'll return next season. McGrady is Houston's third-leading scorer. He had arthroscopic surgery in May and has missed 18 games this season because of his sore knee. He also missed one game with a sprained ankle. He said before the All-Star break he wanted to consult with doctors before deciding on the best course of treatment on his knee. ESPN.com first reported that McGrady was out for the season after the Rockets beat the Nets on Tuesday night. Rockets spokesman Nelson Luis said McGrady met with a doctor in New York on Tuesday and had another out-of-state doctor's appointment scheduled Wednesday. McGrady said he would have the surgery "immediately." "It has been extremely frustrating dealing with the knee injury this season," McGrady said. "It's been tough on me both physically and mentally and while we've come to this conclusion after much deliberation, we truly feel this is best for both me and the Rockets in the long term."

Jeter supports Rodriguez, says don't label sport

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Derek Jeter played it right down the middle with Alex Rodriguez: Didn't like what he did, time to move on.

A day after Rodriguez tried to explain his use of performance-enhancing drugs, Jeter responded.

"We're here to support him through it," the Yankees captain said Wednesday. "I don't condone what he did. We don't condone what he did. And Alex doesn't condone what he did. And I think at this point now it's our jobs to try to help him be as comfortable as he can on the field and try to move past this."

With all the focus on A-Rod, Jeter bristled at those who continue to group all players together.

"One thing that is irritating and it really upsets me a lot is when you hear everybody say, `It was the steroid era. Everybody was doing it.' You know, that's not true. Everybody was not doing it," he said.

"I think it sends the wrong message to fans, to baseball fans; I think it sends the wrong message to kids, saying that everybody was doing it, because that's just not the truth," he said. "I understand there's a lot of people who are big-name players that have come out and allegedly done this and done that, but everybody wasn't doing it."

Jeter's plea to acknowledge the clean players came after an opening workout in which photographers and cameras tailed behind Rodriguez for two hours at New York's spring training complex. Manager Joe Girardi said A-Rod's talent automatically makes him a focal point.

"It would be hard to say that to Michael Jordan when he walked into the stadium, `Don't be the center of attention,'" Girardi said.

A-Rod was the last of 60-plus Yankees to take the field, sprinting from the right-field corner. Some of the 1,600 or so fans gathered under a near-cloudless sky at Steinbrenner Field cheered when they saw No. 13. A few yelled out encouraging words. Not a single boo or insult was heard.

AP

New York Yankees' Derek Jeter, second from left, talks with reporters after a spring training baseball workout in Tampa, Fla., Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2009.

Rodriguez reported for spring training on Tuesday and held a 32-minute news conference, his first since Sport Illustrated reported on its Web site Feb. 7 that he was on a list of 104 players who tested positive for steroids during baseball's anonymous 2003 survey.

Rodriguez had admitted to ESPN on Feb. 9 that he used banned substances while playing for Texas from 2001-03, and he expanded on his story during his news conference. He claimed a cousin—whom he would not identify—repeatedly injected him during those years with a mysterious substance from the Dominican Republic called "boli."

The players' association was contacted by the commissioner's office Wednesday to set up an interview involving Rodriguez and the sport's investigations department, union general counsel Michael Weiner said. Weiner said the interview will be non-disciplinary in nature but declined further comment.

Catcher Jorge Posada, seated in the from row Tuesday along with Jeter, Andy Pettitte and Mariano Rivera, felt for Rodriguez when the star third baseman took a 37-second pause before thanking teammates.

"He just got emotional. I think everybody in that room knew what he was going through at that point. It's tough to look at your teammates in the eye, and tell them, you know, `I'm sorry,'" Posada said.

Posada left midway through the news conference because he had to take his family to the airport. More than 20 players attended, and most stayed until the end.

"I think that he'll be good," said Pettitte, who had a similar confessional news conference last year. "I think he'll be able to put it behind him. I know we're all hoping and pulling for it, that's for sure."

Patriots' Brady says recovery on schedule

BOSTON (AP)—New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady says his recovery from knee surgery remains on schedule and he doesn't see any reason he won't be ready for the 2009 opener.

But Brady stopped short of predicting when exactly he'll return to the field.

"I'm feeling great. I'm feeling really good. Everything is progressing just as I expected," said Brady told reporters Wednesday at a charity event.

"It's just a matter of getting to that time," Brady said. "I wish it was right around the corner. I wish it was here now. It's not, but the competitor in me has to sit back and wait and continue to work and try to get stronger."

Brady spoke during a visit to the Boys and Girls Club in Allston to provide 1,000 laptop computers as part of his work with the Patriots Charitable Foundation and the One Laptop Per Child program.

Asked if he'd be ready to go if training camp started today, Brady said he'd be ready but didn't know if his trainer would agree.

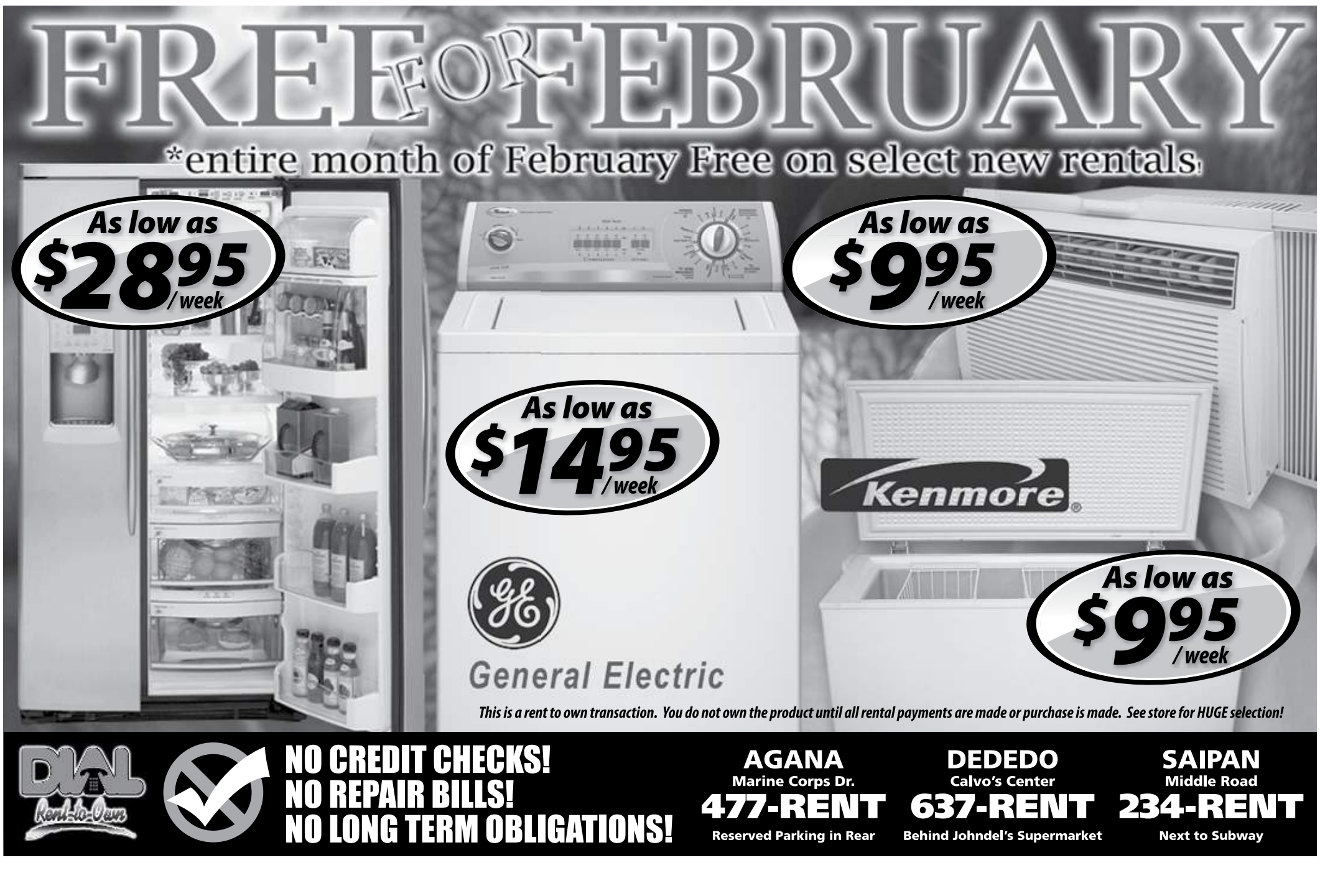
"I was out there working out yesterday with him, and he feels great, and I feel great," Brady said.

He also said he's been throwing the ball.

Brady added that there have been no further setbacks since a post-operative infection in the knee last fall. Brady had surgery on Oct. 6 in Los Angeles after tearing ligaments in the knee during the first quarter of the regular season opener in September.

He sidestepped questions about his rumored engagement to his girlfriend, supermodel Gisele Bundchen.

"Maybe, maybe not," Brady said. "No, all those reports are, unfortunately, not true. I'm in a great spot in my life. I have a lot of people that care about me and that I love, and love being around. My girlfriend is certainly one of them."



Nationals nip Hoopaholics, 92-91

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI Nationals' Jayvan Tarkong, left, and Docomo's Christopher Paul battle for the rebound during their game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Allen Moses responded to the call of duty, canning a crucial free throw that lifted the CNMI Nationals to a thrilling 92-91 double overtime win over Docomo Hoopaholics in the 2008-2009 BANMI/Budweiser Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Moses hardly played in regulation and was missing in action in the first extension period. But when Joemary Tumaquip was disqualified due to five fouls in the first overtime and Quincy Johnson struggled in the second extra period, Nationals coach Rufino Aguon recalled Moses from the bench.

Moses rose to the occasion, firing five of the Nationals' 11 points in the second overtime, including the game-winning charity.

Moses went to the stripe for two free throws in the last 3.3 seconds of the game after drawing a foul from Joe Villacrusis.

Actually, it was Jericho Cruz who made things happen for Moses with the former making a key defensive stop.

With the game tied at 91-all, with 8.6 seconds left in the game, Docomo's Mel Manibusan inbounded the ball from the baseline and passed it to Villacrusis.

Villacrusis quickly passed the ball back to Manibusan, as the former was trapped at the corner by two Nationals defenders.

Manibusan received the pass, but was rattled by the Nationals' backcourt pressure defense, too, and went for a long crosscourt pitch. Cruz jumped the pass with his long arms deflecting the ball.

There was a scramble for the loose ball with Moses picking up the leather, driving to the basket, and drawing a foul from Villacrusis.

Moses' first free throw went in and out of the basket. He released the second shot with the ball hitting the back iron of the rim first before bouncing back to the basket.

Docomo quickly inbounded the ball and David Palacios attempted a triple from midcourt, but the shot was off to the right board, securing the win for the Nationals.

Earlier, Pete Iguel could have won the game for the Nationals in regulation when he was fouled by James Villacrusis, with 2.7 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter and with Docomo ahead by only one, 74-75.

But Iguel split his charities, allowing Docomo to send the game into overtime.

Iguel had a chance to redeem himself in the second overtime when he was sent to the 15-foot line, again, off a Fitial foul, with 8.6 seconds left on the clock and the Nationals were behind, 90-91.

But Iguel muffed his first charity, anew, before making the second one to tie the game.

Despite Iguel splitting his charities and Docomo having possession, Aguon tactically did not call a time out. Had he, Docomo would have inbounded the ball from midcourt instead from backcourt making it easier for John Sablan's wards to execute a play.

The win improved the Nationals record to 5-1 and allowed them to keep the lead in the seven-team league.

Cruz top-scored for the Nationals with 20 points. His pair of free throws in the last 1.7 seconds sent the game in second overtime. In regulation, he saved the ball from going to Docomo's frontcourt preventing a backcourt violation for the Nationals and setting up Iguel for two charities.

In the second game, the Ol'Aces notched their third win in a row after downing the Runnin' Rebels 88-72.

First Game

Ol'Aces 88 – Pelisamen 29, Iginoef 22, White 9, Olaitiman 8, Rangamar 4, Renguul 4, Lauron 2, C. Camacho 2.

Runnin' Rebels 72 – Tumaquip 15, Norita 11, Iguel 10, L. Sablan 7, Coldeen 7, Lisua 6, L. Rangamar 5, Teregeyo 5, Ogumoro 2, Taisacan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 26-19, 36-35, 59-56, 88-72.

Second Game

CNMI Nationals 92 – Cruz 20, Iguel 19, Rabauliman 16, Tarkong 14, Johnson 9, Tumaquip 7, Moses 5, Camacho 2.

Docomo 91 – Sanciangco 25, Ja. Villacrusis 16, Fitial 15, Lee 8, Paul 7, Saralu 6, Jo. Villacrusis 5.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 32-33, 50-49, 75-all, 81-all, 82-91.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	44	11	.800	–
Philadelphia	27	26	.509	16
New Jersey	24	31	.436	20
New York	22	31	.415	21
Toronto	21	35	.375	23 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	39	14	.736	–
Atlanta	32	22	.593	7 1/2
Miami	28	25	.528	11
Charlotte	22	32	.407	17 1/2
Washington	12	42	.222	27 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	41	11	.788	–
Detroit	27	25	.519	14
Milwaukee	27	30	.474	16 1/2
Chicago	24	30	.444	18
Indiana	22	34	.393	21

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	35	17	.673	–
New Orleans	32	20	.615	3
Houston	33	21	.611	3
Dallas	32	21	.604	3 1/2
Memphis	15	39	.278	21

Northwest Division

Denver	37	17	.685	–
Portland	33	20	.623	3 1/2
Utah	31	23	.574	6
Minnesota	18	35	.340	18 1/2
Oklahoma City	13	41	.241	24

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	44	10	.815	–
Phoenix	30	23	.566	13 1/2
Golden State	19	36	.345	25 1/2
L.A. Clippers	13	42	.236	31 1/2
Sacramento	11	44	.200	33 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Cleveland 93, Toronto 76
Charlotte 103, Indiana 94
Denver 101, Philadelphia 89
Minnesota 111, Miami 104
New Orleans 117, Orlando 85
Chicago 113, Milwaukee 104
Dallas 113, New Jersey 98
Portland 94, Memphis 90
Atlanta 105, Sacramento 100
Phoenix 142, L.A. Clippers 119
L.A. Lakers 129, Golden State 121

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER CAGING STANDINGS

CNMI Nationals	5	1
Ol'Aces	4	1
IT& E	4	2
Quichocho Law Office	3	3
Docomo	2	3
Runnin' Rebels	1	5
Diamond Auto Fixers	0	4

MISO STANDINGS

Boys

MHS	4	0
KHS	2	2
SSHS	0	4

Girls

MHS	5	0
KHS	4	2
MCS	2	3
SSHS	0	6

WONG

From Page 36

lon Virtual Meet.

The MHS student won back-to-back monthly awards in April and May for making his mark in Guam tournaments. He first competed in the Guam Swimming Federation All Island Invitational, winning in the 200m IM and the 100m backstroke, and placing second in the 50m butterfly and 50m freestyle.

In the 2008 Guam Championships, he took the High Point Trophy in the open class, claiming four gold medals, three silvers, and three bronzes besides resetting the CNMI age-group and national records in the 100m breaststroke.

Wong also won back-to-back in October and November.

In October, Wong dominated the dual meet between his Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan and Saipan Swim Club and reset the CNMI age group record in the 100m breaststroke for the third time.

In November, he shattered his own mark in the 100m breaststroke and finished on top of the field in the SSC All Schools Swim Meet.

Bennett also posted several record-breaking performance in local and regional tournaments, making her the lone nominee for the 2008 Female Athlete of the Year to win two monthly awards. She won the monthly plum in May and June.

In May during the McDonald's All Schools meet, the Kagman High School student timed in at 13.04 seconds in the 100m race to set a CNMI national record after clocking in at 26.94 in the 200m run to make another national mark.

Bennett's third record-setting performance came in the 400m race, where she timed in at 1:03.50.

In June, Bennett became the fastest woman in Micronesia after clocking in at 12.99 seconds in the 100m sprint finals in the 2008 Oceania Area Championships. In the same tournament, she also reset the CNMI records in the 400m (1:01.83) and 200m (26.65 seconds).

MHS students take honors

Thursday was a the night of the Dolphins, as two more Marianas High School students were recognized for their outstanding performance last season.

MHS cager Jericho Cruz was named Male Student Athlete of the Year, while trackster Jacque Wonenberg claimed her fourth straight Female Student Athlete of the Year award.

Cruz made the selection after playing for the CNMI Junior Nationals in the 2008 Oceania Youth Tournament in Guam.

He was the scoring champion in the tournament, outgunning players from powerhouse Australia and New Caledonia. He led the Junior Nationals to victories over Papua New Guinea and Palau en route to the team's sixth place finish in the tournament.

Locally, the 18-year-old Cruz was a force in various leagues, holding his ground against much experienced cagers.

Wonenberg gave the CNMI its lone gold medal in the 2008 Oceania Area Championships, winning the heptathlon competition.

She topped five events in heptathlon and was runner-up in two others to earn 3,623 points, which were enough to earn her a gold medal in the prestigious event—a first for the Commonwealth in over 12 years of competing in the area championships.

Wonenberg added two bronze medals to her collection, gaining respect from athletes from powerhouse New Zealand and Australia.

In the All Schools Meet, she took five first place finishes, one runner-up, and one third place trophy.

MR.

From Page 36

Mini SPG), 2003 (Fiji SPG), and 2006 (Saipan Micronesian Games).

Locally, he was the only golfer to win the Tournament of Champions four times (1999, 2000, 2006, and 2007) and was also the only quadruple winner of the RGA Club Championship (1995, 2000, 2002, and 2008).

Wabol, through the help of other members of Refaluwasch Golf Association, instituted holding special tournaments that benefit the community.

Last year, Wabol and his group held the RGA Memorial Cup and raised $3,500, which was donated to Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School.

Besides golf, Wabol is also into Little League baseball

In 2003, he was the manager of the CNMI Senior League Team that competed to the Regional Tournament in Manila, Philippines.

The following year, he was also the manager of the Senior Leaguers, who played in the World Series in Bangor, Maine.

Wabol in 2005 was the manager of the CNMI Senior Leaguers who made it to the Regional Tournament in Indonesia.

RANGAMAR

From Page 36

ment, giving the CNMI its lone gold medal in the meet.

Besides Wonenberg's gold, the CNMI also took six silver and eight bronze medals in last year's major athletics event.

Right after the Oceania championships, Rangamar, who also works full time with the Division of Sports and Recreation, turned his attention to basketball.

He was in charge of preparing the CNMI Women's Junior Nationals for the 2008 Oceania Youth Tournament, which took place in Guam in October.

Rangamar teamed up with Jose Tumaquip in helping the CNMI cagebelles shape up for the Oceania caging, which featured teams from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Australia, Guam, New Caledonia, Palau, and Tahiti.

Tied up with his work commitments, Rangamar failed to show up in the Women's Junior Nationals' first game against Tahiti, but eventually joined the team in the remaining days of the tournament. The CNMI cagebelles placed seventh in the Oceania caging, winning over Palau.

Lady Ayuyus make MISO final

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Kagman High School booked the first finals ticket in the girls varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League after whipping Mt. Carmel School in the semifinals, 64-40, Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The victory earned the Lady Ayuyus a return trip to the finals against the winner of the Lady Dolphins-Lady Rays playoff match.

MHS and Saipan Southern High School will square off for the second finals seat tomorrow with the former aiming for a rematch against the defending champion Lady Ayuyus.

Kagman was pitted against Mt. Carmel in the semifinals after the Lady Ayuyus finished second in the regular season with their 4-2 record. The Lady Knights were seeded third collecting two wins in six games.

The Lady Ayuyus swept the Lady Knights in the regular season, winning by 10 points in their first meeting, 52-42, and by 32 markers in the second round, 58-26.

The third outing had another lopsided results, as the Lady Knights kept pace with the Lady Ayuyus only in the first quarter.

With Noelle Calvo firing nine points in the opening period, the Lady Knights were behind by only three, 13-16, after the first eight minutes of the game.

But that was the closest that Mt. Carmel could get, as it was an all Kagman show in the last three quarters.

Mercedez Mesa, Dion Diaz, and Stacie Mizutani combined for 12 of Kagman's 16 points in the second quarter, while Yvonne Bennett and Agatha Repeki chipped in three and two, respectively, giving the Lady Ayuyus a 32-21 halftime lead.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Lady Ayuyus' Yvonne Bennett is sandwiched by two Lady Knights defenders during their semifinal game in the MISO caging Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Only Calvo and Nicole Lebria scored for MCS in the second and third quarters before Amanda Tudela and Taylor Ada added two points apiece in the fourth quarter.

In contrast, the Lady Ayuyus drew contributions from every player coach Francis San Nicolas fielded in the second half.

Bennett piled up 12 more in the second half, three other players nailed four each, and three more Lady Ayuyus scored two apiece.

Bennett paced the Ayuyus with 16 markers, while Mesa and Repeki finished with 14 and 10, respectively.

Calvo led all scorers with 20 points, while Lebria had 14.

KHS 64 – Yvo. Bennett 16, Mesa 14, Repeki 10, Mizutani 8, Diaz 6, Hofschneider 6, Mettao 2, Cabrera 2.

MCS 40 – Calvo 20, Lebria 14, Ada 4, Olarte 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-13, 32-21, 50-22, 64-40.

Ortiz tops Fil-Taga February Ace tourney

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

In an unexpected twist, neophytes Jhun Ortiz and Jay Gatdula grabbed the limelight in last Sunday's 2009 Fil-Taga Golfers Association February Ace of the Month Tournament at the Marianas Country Club.

Both work as maintenance crew at the Marpi golf course.

Ortiz and Gatdula used their familiarity of the course to topple the veterans, as the relatively new club members took first and second after 18 holes and established themselves forces to reckon with in the monthly event.

Ortiz, who only started joining the monthly event in October last year, shot a net score of 67 to snatch his first ever golf title. The 26-handicapper finished with a gross of 93.

As February ace winner, Ortiz earned an outright ticket for the Golfer of the Year Tournament to be played sometime in January next year.

The first ticket was taken by Mike Cruz, who won the January Ace for 2009 and in the process taking the 2008 title for Fil-Taga Golfer of the Year, his third after claiming it for the first time in 1997 and again in 2000.

Ortiz was seventh last month with a net 75.

However, Cruz was good for only 15th place with his net 82 in last Sunday's event. The 18-handicapper carded a gross score of 100.

Gatdula was three strokes behind Ortiz with his net 70 after the 28-handicapper compiled gross of 98.

Rey Ferraz closed out with a net 72 to place third after the 16-handicapper carded a low gross of 88.

Assessing his game, Ferraz said he was on his way for a crack of the monthly plum but then he realized the players with higher handicaps came up with good gross scores, referring to Ortiz and Gatdula.

"They are regularly practicing at the MCC," he said.

Ferraz said it was very windy at the course but he did play well.

Asked about his chances for next month, Ferraz said "you can't really tell because golf is an interesting game, sometimes you play well and sometimes not."

But his third place performance this time was way better than his 13th overall last month with a net 81.

A total of 26 players, including two new members, joined.

Matutino Adony, who was 10th last month with 79, finished fourth this time with his net 74, while Richard Meimban vastly improved with his 74 for fifth this month, compared to the 91 he submitted last month when he settled for 18th place.

Jojo Geva slipped to sixth with a 76 after coming in with a 72 for fourth in January.

Rounding out the Top 10 finishers were Rev. Fr. Manny Corcuera (77), Manny Po (78), and Ted Malaran (78).

The other players, with their net scores in parenthesis, were Toto Siruelo (80), Greg Gamboa (80), William Retardo (81), Jhun Calma (81), Fred Cataluna (82), Mike Cruz (82), John Matsumoto (82), Rene Batallones (83), Mando Guban (83), Leo Ganacias (85), Gil Faller (85), Joe Miranda (86), Nono Bostre (87), Dan Ganacias (88), Chiong Alsree (93), Orly De Leon (111), and Joey Alcaraz (112).

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

Play ball!

The New Year for me does not start January 1st. It starts on opening day of baseball. Now that Saipan baseball is back, I feel normal again.

For diehard football fans, the year has two parts: football and not football and I am unable to argue with anyone who says the new year actually starts on opening day of college football.

As someone growing up who played baseball six months of the year and football the other six months, I grudgingly admit to enjoying basketball. It's like having three girlfriends. The first two are my favorites but basketball is still my girlfriend.

Sunday's opening of the Saipan Little League with 31 teams was a testament not only to the game itself but to all those who made it possible. Considering the exodus of players we have seen over the past several years and the downward turn of the economy, the turnout at Palacios Field was impressive.

Also impressive albeit in a different, climatic way, the dust storms that blew across the field unchecked.

Maybe not so nice for the fans sitting face-into-the-dirt over on the first base side, but for the players, there is something special about coming home with a dirty uniform, dusty face, smelly hands and if you're lucky, a bruise from getting hit by the pitch or running over the catcher, or even better, a strawberry from a hard slide. The pain feels good win or lose. If you lose, you take pride in your effort. If you win, well, that's what it's all about.

Hope springs eternal on baseball opening day. Everyone starts the season tied for first place.

Half of the teams on opening day lose; half the teams win. All the teams know the season is young; the promise is there to get even better. It's not bad to be 0-1.

Every season new 9-year-olds join organized baseball. For each of them, the game is a novel learning experience, a lesson in being on a team. Memories to last a lifetime.

You know you are old when Little Leaguers you coached are now coaches. Five of my former players are coaching Saipan Little League this season which means … oh, forget it.

Some of my greatest sports thrills come from Little League, from a player with first glove, uniform and cleats, to a coach watching my son with his first glove/uniform/cleats who in three years went from being over-matched to strikeout king.

And then the next year, my Glazers broke the San Vicente A's four-year winning streak with a most dramatic playoff victory: the A's Steve "Smoke" Cruz and Tyrone Omar were locked in a pitching duel, a 0-0 tie going to the bottom of the sixth and final inning. Justin Mizutani led off with a walk. Danny Concepcion executed a perfect bunt to advance Mizutani to second. Jefferson Saures singled up the middle. I was coaching third and waved Justin home. We won 1-0. Tears were seen after that game.

And of course, the incredible, now legendary triple play made by Tyrone in Rizal Memorial Stadium, Manila against Guam. Extra innings, Guam had runners on second and third with no outs. The batter hit a screaming liner to dead center field. Tyrone instinctively moved up but the ball was over his head. He jumped as high as he had in his life and speared the ball. The runner on third tagged up and raced for home. On the fly Tyrone threw a strike to catcher Jonathan Sablan who placed the tag just as the runner's leg hit the plate. The umpire raised his fist and shouted "Out!" Jonathan threw up his glove and ball in celebration. The team was jumping for joy, running around like they had won the game. Tyrone was not sure how many outs there were either and was running in when he noticed the umpire from Guam waving the other runner around the bases. Tyrone looked for the ball. When he saw another umpire picking it up, he raced there in a flash, grabbed it from his hand and like a tiger on steroids pounced on the runner before he got to third in front of the cheating umpire who had no choice but to call him out. Triple play. We are going to the World Series, bay-bee!

Wow, a whole column about baseball without any mention of Alex Rodriguez. Oops, sorry.

Ex-Nets help Mavs pound New Jersey

Jason Kidd and Antoine Wright celebrated the first anniversary of their trade from the New Jersey Nets a day early Wednesday, leading the Dallas Mavericks to a 113-98 victory over their former team. 32

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lady Ayuyus make MISO final

Kagman High School booked the first finals ticket in the girls' varsity division of the 2008-2009 MISO Basketball League after whipping Mt. Carmel School in the semifinals, 64-40, Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium. 35

Wong, Bennett named Athletes of the Year

Cruz, Wonenberg win student plums

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With their record-breaking performance in 2008, it is just fitting that swimmer Rezne Wong and sprinter Yvonne Bennett be named 2008 NMASA Male and Female Athlete of the Year.

Wong and Bennett's selection for the coveted awards were announced last night during the 2008 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet at Saipan Grand Hotel.

Wong failed to make the awards ceremony, as he left Thursday evening for Tokyo to compete in the Japan Open.

Rezne was a five-time Male Athlete of the Month winner last season—the most for any nominees in 2008—getting NMASA members' nod for his exploits in on- and off-island tournaments.

His first monthly plum came in February when he set a CNMI age group mark [15 to 18 years old] in the 100m breaststroke event en route to ruling the 3rd annual Saipan Swim Club Heptath-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Eli and Millet Wong, parents of 2008 Male Athlete of the Year Rezne Wong, Male Student Athlete of the Year Jericho Cruz, Female Athlete of the Year Yvonne Bennett, and Female Student Athlete of the Year Jacque Wonenberg, pose for a group photo during the 2008 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet last night at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

Mr. Unorthodox joins Hall of Fame

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Veteran golfer Jess Wabol was inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame last night during the 2008 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet, becoming only the 13th individual to join the elite group.

A familiar fixture in local and regional golf tournaments, Wabol had a long list of achievements in fairways and greens, which earned him a rightful place in the Hall of Fame.

His love affair with golf started at the Saipan Country Club (formerly Whispering Palms Golf Course) where he caddied for friends and later played better than them.

From 1976-1977, he was a member of the golf team for the Park Ville College in Missouri. He was also part of the college's baseball squad.

After college, he returned to Saipan and began dominating local tournaments and represented the CNMI in various off-island and regional tournaments.

Wabol first played for the CNMI team in the 1987 South Pacific Games in Papua New Guinea. He carried the CNMI flag in regional tournaments in seven more occasions: 1991 (New Caledonia SPG), 1993 (Vanuatu Mini SPG), 1995 (Tahiti SPG), 1999 (Guam SPG), 2001 (Norfolk Island

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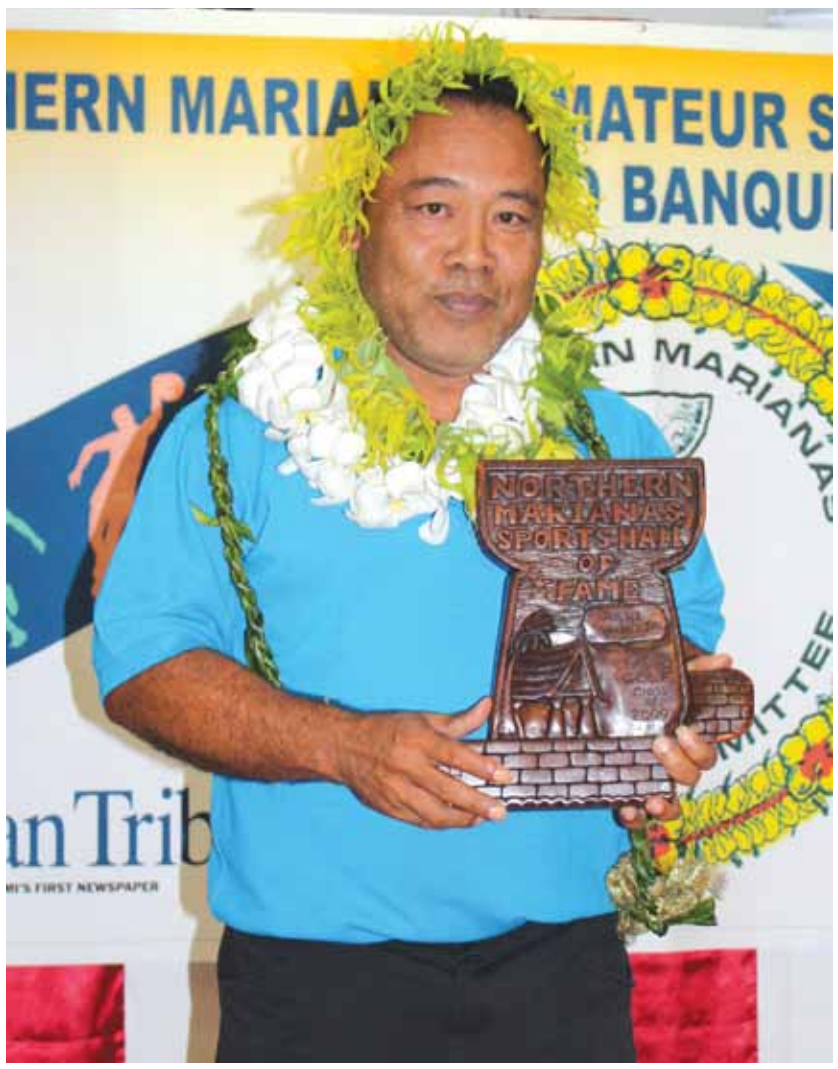

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Golfer Jess Wabol was inducted to the CNMI Sports Hall of Fame during the 2008 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet last night at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.

Rangamar is Coach of the Year

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The indefatigable Elias Rangamar took the 2008 NMASA Coach of the Year award, getting recognition for his efforts in basketball and athletics.

Rangamar was part of Northern Marianas Athletics pool of coaches, who prepared CNMI tracksters for the biggest meet the Commonwealth hosted last season—the 2008 Oceania Area Championships.

He helped turn Jacque Wonenberg from a sprinter to an all-around trackster for the Oceania championships held from June 23 to 28.

Wonenberg later won the heptathlon competition in the area tourna-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Elias Rangamar, 2008 Coach of the Year, holds the specially crafted latte stone trophy presented to him during the 2008 NMASA Annual Awards Banquet last night at the Seaside Hall of Saipan Grand Hotel.